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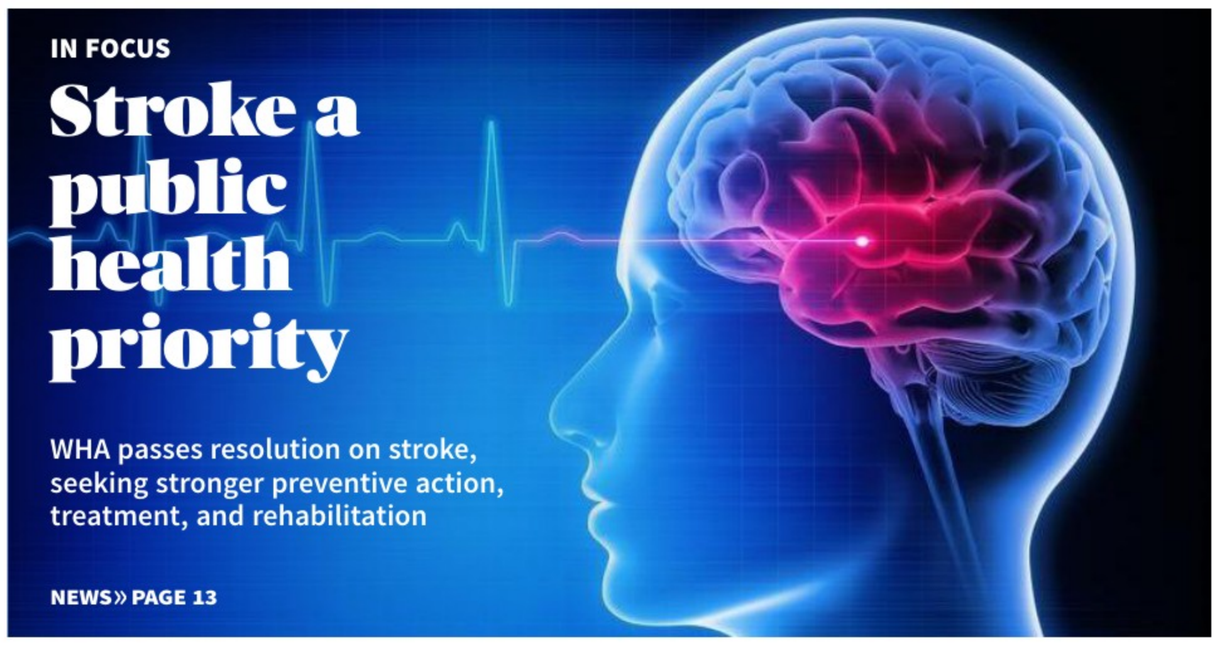
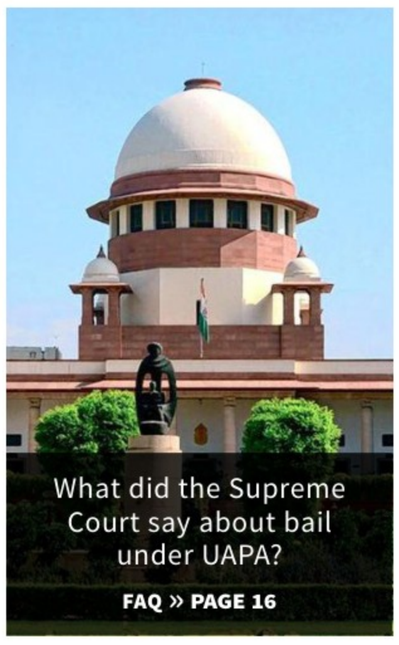


IN FOCUS

Stroke a public health priority

WHA passes resolution on stroke, seeking stronger preventive action, treatment, and rehabilitation

NEWS» PAGE 13



What did the Supreme Court say about bail under UAPA?

FAQ » PAGE 16

Delhi High Court allows Vinesh to participate in trials

SPORT » PAGE 20

Skipper Shreyas keeps Kings in the hunt

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

SIR: Migrants proving hardest to map

BENGALURU
Despite Karnataka reporting 87.49% completion in voter mapping, including progeny mapping, ahead of the SIR, Booth Level Officers say migrant and marginalised populations are proving the hardest to map due to mismatched records, mobility and field constraints. » PAGE 9

Second largest cricket stadium in Anekal soon

BENGALURU
The State will soon have the second largest cricket stadium in India after Gujarat, in Anekal taluk. » PAGE 5

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 4 & 8
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Petrol and diesel prices hiked third time in 8 days

Rising crude oil prices and disruptions in energy supplies due to the West Asia conflict continue to push up prices; Kolkata records a steeper hike, while petrol in Delhi nears the ₹100-a-litre mark

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Prices of petrol and diesel were raised for the third time in eight days on Saturday, this time by an average of 90 paise per litre across all variants.

The price of compressed natural gas (CNG) in several parts of North India also rose for the third time within the same interval, this time by ₹1 a kg.

Since the first round of hikes on May 15, the prices of diesel and petrol have cumulatively increased by approximately ₹4.8 per litre each in three tranches across the country.

CNG prices have also risen cumulatively by ₹4 a kg in several cities of North India during the same period.

With the latest hike, the price of petrol in Delhi rose by 87 paise to ₹99.51 per litre, and that of diesel by 91 paise to ₹92.49 per litre. CNG in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi is now priced at ₹81.09 per kg.

The hikes follow increased pressure on oil marketing companies (OMCs) due to rising crude oil prices, as energy supplies continue to be disrupted because of the conflict in West Asia.

India's crude oil basket averaged $107.96 per barrel in May until Friday.

Further, the benchmark Brent crude futures (July) settled about 0.69% higher at $104.25 for every barrel on Friday.

On Saturday, Kolkata woke up to a comparatively steeper hike compared to other metros.

The price of petrol in Kolkata rose by 94 paise to ₹110.64 per litre, while diesel became 95 paise more expensive at ₹97.02 per litre. In Mumbai, petrol prices increased by 90 paise to ₹108.49 per litre, while diesel rose by 94 paise to ₹95.02 per litre.

Petrol in Bengaluru is now priced at ₹108.09 per litre, up from ₹107.14. Diesel prices have also gone up to ₹95.99 per litre from ₹95.04.

The hike also extended to premium and high-octane variants of diesel and petrol across metros.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 11

Fuel on the boil

The price of petrol and diesel in four metros after the latest hike

PETROL	
Delhi	99.51 (+0.87)
Kolkata	110.64 (+0.94)
Mumbai	108.49 (+0.90)
Chennai	105.31 (+0.82)

DIESEL	
Delhi	92.49 (+0.91)
Kolkata	97.02 (+0.95)
Mumbai	95.02 (+0.94)
Chennai	96.98 (+0.87)

An employee points to the revised petrol price at a Bharat Petroleum outlet in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. G.N.RAO

Delhi plays a key role in Indo-Pacific policy of the U.S., says Rubio

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio during a meeting, in New Delhi, on Saturday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India plays an important role in the U.S. Indo-Pacific policy, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who met and invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington later this year, said on Saturday.

Mr. Rubio, who began his four-day trip to India on Saturday morning, will hold bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Sunday and attend the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) along with Ministers from Australia and Japan on Tuesday. One of his missions in India was to "renew" the Quad engagement, Mr. Rubio said, crediting Mr. Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump as drivers of the India-U.S. engagement.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 11

PPP model proposed for metro project to Tumakuru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has submitted the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 59.96-km Madavara (BIEC)-Tumakuru Metro corridor to Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Saturday.

BOT framework

According to the DPR accessed by *The Hindu*, the project is proposed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, with the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) framework identified as the preferred option. The corridor will pass through Nelamangala, Dobbspet and Kyathasandra.

The DPR estimates the project cost between ₹17,785 crore and ₹19,361 crore under different funding models.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the proposal would be placed before the State Cabinet.

DETAILED REPORT ON » PAGE 2

Monsoon rush

Men run for cover during heavy pre-monsoon rain in Fort Kochi on Saturday. THULASI KAKKAT

Probe ordered into convict walking out of prison using fake SC order 8 years ago

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It was nearly eight years ago that Shankar Armugam, who was serving life imprisonment after being convicted in a 2001 kidnapping-for-ransom case, walked out of the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. The authorities have realised only now that the Supreme Court documents he produced to secure his release were allegedly forged, triggering an investigation into suspected collusion and grave procedural lapses inside the Prison Department.

ILLUSTRATION FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY.

This came to light after the Director-General of Prisons received a petition alleging that the convict had secured his release from the prison by submitting fake Supreme Court orders. Following the complaint, an internal probe was ordered, which reportedly confirmed that the release order was forged.

Based on the findings, the Parappana Agrahara Police police have registered a case under Sections 465, 466, 468, 471, 472, and 420 of the Indian Penal Code related to forgery, use of forged documents, and cheating.

According to the complaint filed by the prison authorities, Shankar was serving life imprisonment after being convicted by a Fast Track Court-I under Section 364A of the IPC for kidnapping for ransom, along with charges under Section 120B for criminal conspiracy.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 2

Five killed in accident in Kalaburagi district

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Five persons from Ingalagi village were killed on the spot when the passenger vehicle they were travelling in collided with a lorry near Neeladahalla, between Halkarta and Ladlapur villages, on National Highway 150 in Wadi police station limits of Kalaburagi district in the early hours of Saturday.

According to the police, the accident occurred around 12.30 a.m. when the vehicle proceeding from Yadgir towards Wadi collided with the lorry that was on its way to Chennai from Gujarat.

The impact of the collision was such that all the five occupants of the vehicle died on the spot. The lorry driver reportedly fled from the scene.

The deceased were identified as Tolusab, 27, who was driving the vehicle; Husain, 47; Mehabub Sab, 45; Rasool Bee, 42; and Fatima, 38. All the deceased were residents of Ingalagi village.

"Nine members of the family had taken a patient to a hospital in Yadgir. While four of them stayed back at the hospital after admitting the patient, the remaining five were returning to their native village when the accident occurred," Superintendent of Police Adduru Srinivasulu said.

Intricate work: A *naula*, designed with masonry walls to filter and collect water from the earth, in Mangrao village of Nainital.

Stark stones: The stone storage structure in a *naula* lies dry in Mangrao village. Steps to protect the springs are the need of the hour.

Royal lineage: A storage structure at the Ranidhara *naula* in Almora. Constructed by the Chand dynasty rulers, the *naula* was once used by women from the royal families.

Quenching their thirst: Schoolchildren collect water from an outlet at the Ranidhara *naula* in Almora district in Uttarakhand.

The drying *naulas* of Uttarakhand

Many of the *naulas* and *dharas*, the water springs which represent a union of nature and human ingenuity, are drying up in signs of a deepening environmental crisis across Uttarakhand

Shashi Shekhar Kashyap
shashi.shekhar@thehindu.co.in

Naulas, or water temples, represent a remarkable union of nature and human ingenuity – places where one could drink clean water or even take a royal bath, as at the Ranidhara *naula*. These traditional stone-built water springs of the Kumaon region in Uttarakhand have long been an integral part of Himalayan life. They are not only historically significant but are also sites of water worship.

In Kumaon culture, a *naula* is treated with the sanctity of a temple and these ancient stone-lined water structures serve as the primary lifeline for drinking water, especially where modern piped infrastructure faces geographical challenges.

Today, however, many *naulas* and *dharas*, the natural springs where water emerges from the hillsides, are drying up, lying abandoned, or growing polluted – signs of a deepening environmental crisis across the State. Declining groundwater recharge has caused these springs to weaken, and many of these groundwater aquifers, tucked away inside village lanes or forest patches, have been neglected. Frequent forest fires compound the problem, destroying vegetation and drying out the soil.

Climate change has further disrupted rainfall patterns, bringing irregular rains, reduced snowfall, and rapid surface run-off rather than steady absorption into the ground. Among the major drivers of this decline are road construction, urbanisation, and rising tourism, all of which have damaged natural water channels and recharge zones. Many villagers also speak of acute water shortages, particularly in summer, forcing them to climb to higher ground in search of water.

Quirky design: A person collects *dhara* water from the mouth of a sculpture in Nainital district.

DPR proposes PPP model for the Madavara-Tumakuru metro line

The submission comes even as several transport experts and urban planners have raised concerns over viability of extending metro connectivity

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has submitted the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed Madavara (BIEC)-Tumakuru Metro Rail corridor to Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Saturday, with the report proposing implementation of the nearly 60-km corridor under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, particularly the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) framework.

The submission comes even as several transport experts and urban planners have raised concerns over the practicality and financial viability of extending metro connectivity up to Tumakuru.

Dr. Parameshwara said that the DPR would be placed before the State Cabinet for discussion.

"The report will be discussed in the Cabinet meeting and a decision will be taken thereafter," he said.

According to the DPR accessed by *The Hindu*, the proposed metro corridor from Madavara (BIEC) to Tumakuru will cover a distance of 59.96 km via Nelamangala, Dobbspet and Kyathasandra. The DPR indicates that the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is considering multiple PPP structures for the project, with the BOT model identified as the "suitable PPP model" for its implementation. Under the proposed BOT framework, the private sector partner would be responsible for designing, financing, constructing and operating the metro system for a concession period of 25 to 30 years, after which the ownership would remain with or revert to the government.

The report also outlines broader PPP possibilities at both the project implementation and operational stages. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Madavara-Tumakuru metro project

- **Project length:** 59.96 km metro corridor from Madavara (BIEC) to Tumakuru via Nelamangala, Dobbspet and Kyathasandra
- **Estimated cost:** Pegged between ₹17,785.69 crore and ₹19,361.23 crore under different funding models proposed in the DPR
- **Preferred model:** PPP/BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) model with private participation in financing, construction and operations
- **Concession period:** Private operator may run the metro for 25 to 30 years before transfer to the government
- **Funding structure:** Funding through a mix of State and Central government support, loans, Viability Gap Funding and private investment
- **Commercial monetisation:** Revenue generation through station naming rights, advertisements, commercial spaces and corporate partnerships

Source: Detailed Project Report accessed by The Hindu

Project implementation

The report also outlines broader PPP possibilities at both the project implementation and operational stages.

It proposes monetisation avenues such as metro station naming rights, earmarked advertising spaces, commercial areas and corporate access arrangements for employees. Revenue generated through such measures, the DPR stated, could help reduce the financial burden on the Government of India and the State government.

In addition, the DPR proposes outsourcing several operational and maintenance activities to private players, including maintenance of rolling stock, signalling systems, telecom infrastructure, power supply and fare collection systems.

Funding

The report also presents two major funding scenarios for the project. Under the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) model with "innovative finances", the estimated project cost is pegged at ₹17,785.69 crore. The funding pattern envisages 20% contribution each from the Centre and the State government, while 60% would come through senior debt sourced from multilateral agencies, bilateral agencies or commercial loans.

The DPR stated that the Government of India's share would amount to ₹2,524.48 crore, while the State government's contribution would also stand at ₹2,524.48 crore. Senior debt is estimated at ₹7,573.45 crore.

Additional components include ₹800 crore through value capture financing, ₹2,710.93 crore towards land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement by the State government, ₹1,097.47 crore towards State taxes support, ₹150 crore through private participation and ₹404.87 crore towards interest during construction.

A second financial model proposed in the DPR is the PPP model based on Viability Gap Funding (VGF). Under this scenario, the total project cost is estimated at ₹19,361.23 crore. The report proposes 24% VGF support each from the Centre and the State governments amounting to ₹2,934.43 crore each. The concessionaire's equity contribution is estimated at ₹2,640.98 crore, while debt raised by the concessionaire is estimated at ₹6,162.29 crore.

Land acquisition

The DPR also notes that the State government would bear land acquisition costs amounting to ₹3,617.29 crore. Interest during construction on loans is estimated at ₹1,071.81 crore.

The implementation timeline proposed in the report suggests that the project could take close to four to five years after approvals and financial closure. The DPR allocates 48 months each for depot construction, viaduct construction and elevated station works, while land acquisition and utility shifting are expected to take 24 months each.

From Page One

Probe ordered into convict walking out of jail using fake SC order

The complaint states that prison officials received what appeared to be an official communication purportedly issued by the Supreme Court of India in Criminal Appeal. Based on the documents, the convict reportedly paid a fine of ₹10,000 and was released from prison on November 13, 2018.

However, years later, authorities discovered that the Supreme Court order dated November 3, 2018, submitted before prison authorities was allegedly fake.

The fraud reportedly surfaced after prison authorities sought verification from the Supreme Court regarding the authenticity of the order. The apex court is said to have clarified that no such release order had been issued and that the documents produced before prison officials were forged.

According to the police, as per standard operating procedure, the Supreme Court orders are not communicated through physical postal mail, and are instead transmitted electronically through official channels. Investigators suspect there were serious lapses on the part of prison officials who failed to verify the authenticity of the documents or follow mandatory SOPs before releasing the convict. Police have now initiated a detailed inquiry to ascertain whether any prison officials were complicit in the fraud or negligently facilitated the convict's release. Efforts are also under way to trace and secure the convict, who has remained outside prison since 2018.

Petrol, diesel prices hiked again; transport sector warns of ripple effect

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fuel prices in Bengaluru witnessed another increase on Saturday, after oil marketing companies raised petrol and diesel prices for the third time in just eight days, adding to concerns over rising inflation and mounting pressure on the general public and transport sector.

Prices across all fuel variants were increased by an average of 90 paise per litre. With the latest revision, petrol in Bengaluru is now priced at ₹108.09 per litre, up from ₹107.14 on Friday. Diesel prices too rose sharply to ₹95.99 per litre from ₹95.04 per litre.

This is the third fuel price hike in May. Oil companies had earlier revised prices upward by around ₹3 per litre on May 15, followed by another increase of around 90 paise per litre on May 19. The cumulative hike over the past few days has left commuters, transport operators and businesses worried about the impact on daily expenses and operational costs.

Prices across all fuel variants have been increased by an average of 90 paise per litre. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Industry stakeholders said the latest increase is expected to have a cascading effect on sectors dependent on transportation and logistics, including hotels, retail and essential commodities.

Travel operators expressed concern over the repeated hikes. K. Radhakrishna Holla, president of the Karnataka State Travel Owners' Association, said that the rapid increase in fuel prices within a short period had pushed the transport sector to the brink. "The rapid hike of fuel price in just ten days has pushed the State's transport sector to the brink of collapse. This isn't just an operational crisis for taxi, tourist, and contract car operators who are facing crippling overheads; it is a direct blow to the common man," he said.

Mr. Holla warned that the fuel price rise would create a domino effect across the economy by increasing logistics expenses and inflating the cost of essential commodities such as milk, vegetables and groceries.

The ride-hailing cab drivers also said the repeated hikes were severely affecting their earnings. "This is the third time we are paying more at the pump this week, but our ride-hailing rates haven't changed at all. Out of every thousand rupees I earn today, nearly six hundred goes straight into the fuel tank. After the aggregator takes their commission, I am left with almost nothing to take home to my family," said Praveen K., a ride-hailing cab driver from Laggere.

"If prices keep climbing like this, driving a cab in Bengaluru will no longer be sustainable for people like me," he added.

Consumers too expressed concern over the impact on household budgets. Anjali Rao, a software quality analyst from Whitefield, said that the fuel price hikes were already affecting grocery expenses. "Every time petrol goes up, my weekly grocery bill jumps the very next day because transport costs for vegetables and milk shoot up. Inflation is hitting us from every single direction, but our salaries are exactly where they were last year," she said.

Fuel price hike: Hoteliers in city feel the heat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The latest hike in petrol and diesel prices, the third increase within just 10 days, is expected to soon hit sectors dependent on transportation and logistics.

The hotel industry in Bengaluru too has warned that businesses are running out of room to absorb rising costs without eventually pushing prices up for consumers.

Since May 15, fuel prices have cumulatively increased by ₹4.8 per litre via three back-to-back hikes.

Hotels and restaurants said the impact is harsher than ever as the industry is already struggling with high commercial LPG cylinder prices and continued shortage concerns. Almost everything they depend on, from vegetables, milk, meat and groceries to cooking supplies and even laundry materials, arrives through transport networks dependent on diesel. "Once fuel prices rise, transport charges go up, suppliers revise rates, and the pressure builds across the entire chain. Repeated fuel hikes within short intervals are making it difficult for businesses to function without taking a hit," said Roopa Shashtri from Rasapaka in Gandhinagar.

However, while costs continue to rise, hotel owners said they could not increase menu prices every few days and expect customers to absorb it each time. "For now, most are managing internally, but that cannot continue for long. This will lead to retail inflation," S.P. Krishnaraj, who runs Nisarga Grand on Nrupathanga Road, said.

Hoteliers said that if fuel prices continue to rise at this pace, the impact would inevitably spill into everyday retail prices and consumer spending.

Travel operators fear loss of livelihood if WFH becomes widespread again

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal urging citizens to adopt work-from-home (WFH) practices, minimise unnecessary travel and rely more on public transport has sparked concern among cab drivers and travel operators, with industry representatives warning that the move could severely impact the employee transportation sector.

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association (KSTOA) has written to Mr. Modi seeking urgent intervention and protective measures for the transport industry, stating that thousands of drivers and small travel businesses could face financial distress if work-from-home arrangements become widespread again.

Recently, fuel prices in Bengaluru were revised, a move that has hit travel operators. KSTOA president Radhakrishna Holla said, "We fully support measures aimed at reducing fuel consumption and encouraging the use of public transport. However, the employee transportation sector is heavily dependent on daily office commuting. If companies return to large-scale work-from-home practices, thousands of cab drivers attached to employee transportation services in Bengaluru and other cities could lose their livelihood. The industry had already suffered immensely during the COVID-19 pandemic, and another prolonged slowdown could push many operators and drivers into severe financial distress."

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking urgent intervention and protective measures for the transport industry.

The association stated that the employee transport industry, which supports lakhs of jobs across the country, continues to play a crucial role in servicing India's IT, corporate and industrial sectors especially cities like Bengaluru. However, despite its importance, the sector often remains overlooked during policy discussions, Mr. Holla said. Ramesh Kumar, a cab driver attached to a private employee transport operator in Bengaluru, said another decline in office commuting would make survival difficult for drivers already struggling with rising expenses.

"Most of us are still repaying vehicle loans taken during the pandemic recovery period. Our earnings mainly depend on transporting employees to offices every day. If work-from-home increases again, we may not even be able to manage monthly EMI payments, fuel costs and household expenses. Drivers are extremely worried because we have very limited alternative sources of income," he said.

The KSTOA also expressed concern over the increasing use of informal carpooling systems, claiming that such arrangements could potentially conflict with Motor Vehicle Rules and regulated commercial transport services.

Saleem orders State-wide drive to streamline policing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move aimed at improving administration and streamlining policing across Karnataka, the Head of the Karnataka State Police Force M.A. Saleem has directed senior police officers to conduct inspections of district and city police units between May and July.

According to the circular, Additional Director-Generals of Police and Inspector-Generals of Police have been assigned districts and commissionerates to review policing standards, administrative efficiency and implementation of new criminal laws.

The inspections will focus on law and order management, crime investigation standards, pending promotions, police welfare measures, intelligence gathering, cybercrime investigation and disposal of pending bills and utilisation certificates.

Senior officers have also been instructed to verify timely investigation of cases under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, monitor action against organised crime, narcotics offences, hate speeches and illegal immigrants, and assess public outreach initiatives such as "Mane Manege Police" and "Aasare".

The circular further directs inspecting officers to review recovery of stolen property, execution of warrants, conviction rates, use of forensic vehicles and mental and physical health initiatives for police personnel.

All inspecting officers have been directed to submit detailed reports to the DGP within 10 days of completion of inspection.

PUBLIC NOTICE
(Loss of Original Agreement of Sale)

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the original Sale Deed dated 21.05.1973 bearing Doc.No.1322/73-74 registered before the Sub-Registrar, Mysuru in respect of Sy.No.47/1B measuring 1 Acre ; Original Sale Deed dated 20.01.1998 bearing Doc.No.5496/1997-98 registered before the Sub-Registrar, Mysuru in respect of Sy.No.47/1B measuring 10 Guntas ; and Original Sale Deed dated 07.09.1998 bearing Doc.No.2913/1998-99 registered before the Sub-Registrar, Mysuru in respect of Sy.No.47/1A measuring 17 Guntas & Sy.No.47/1B measuring 3 Guntas, all are situated at **Inam Uthanahalli Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk and District** (herein after referred to as 'Said Property') have been lost/misplaced and remain untraceable despite diligent search.

Our clients, **Sri. M.Puttaraju** S/o Late Madaiah, residing at No. 464, Easha Nilaya, 28th Main Road, HSR Layout Sector -1, Bengaluru – 560102, is the absolute owner in lawful possession and enjoyment of all that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing new **Sy.No.47/1B measuring 1 A 13 G and Sy.No.47/1 A** situated at **Inam Uthanahalli Village, Varuna Hobli, Mysuru Taluk and District.**

The original Sale Deed dated 21.05.1973 bearing Doc.No.1322/73-74 registered before the Sub-Registrar, Mysuru; Original Sale Deed dated 20.01.1998 bearing Doc.No.5496/1997-98 registered before the Sub-Registrar, Mysuru; and Original Sale Deed dated 07.09.1998 bearing Doc.No.2913/1998-99 registered before the Sub-Registrar, executed by the previous vendors, relating to the Said Property, have been irretrievably lost. A police complaint has been lodged with the jurisdictional police station, and digital signed **Lost Article Report No. 2216674/2026 dated 22.5.2026** has been issued.

Any person(s) in possession of the said original documents is requested to return them forthwith to the undersigned. Further, any person having any claim, right, or objection whatsoever in respect of the Said Property by virtue of the aforementioned documents is required to notify the undersigned in writing, along with supporting original documents, at the address below within **7 (seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Prashanth Aradhya H.C.
Shekhar Law Associates.,
Advocate & Solicitors
#919, 5th Main, MC Layout, Vijaynagar,
Bengaluru-560040, Ph:9731967197
Bengaluru Date : 24-05-2026

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dhanalakshmi B.L. W/o Shivegowda L R/at No.3470, 3rd Main, Girinagar 4th Phase, Bengaluru-560085 do hereby solemnly state that, **DHANALAKSHMI B.L. (DHANALAKSHMI BANGALORE LAKKEGOWDA)** is my correct name. But in my passport my name is mentioned as **DHANALAKSHMI SHIVEGOWDA.** I further state hereinafter my name is changed as **DHANALAKSHMI B.L. (DHANALAKSHMI BANGALORE LAKKEGOWDA)** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 30.04.2026 sworn to Notary H.G. Venkataramu.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. PROJECT-SWR-TL-THN-30MVA
Dated : 20-05-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Design, Supply, Construction, Testing and Commissioning of the following works for arranging power supply to an extent of 30MVA (inclusive of connected 5MVA)on EHT basis in favour of Divisional Railway Manager, Traction & Distribution,South Western Railway, Mysuru Division for railway traction s/s at Tholahunse railway station RTSS : **(i)** 1 no. of additional line Terminal Bay's at 220/66kV SRS Davangere Sub-station **(ii)** 66 kV 630Sqmm Single Circuit UG Cable from 220/66kV SRS Davangere S/S to Tholahunse RTSS for a route length of 7.840 km	**Rs. 45,33,49,959.29**

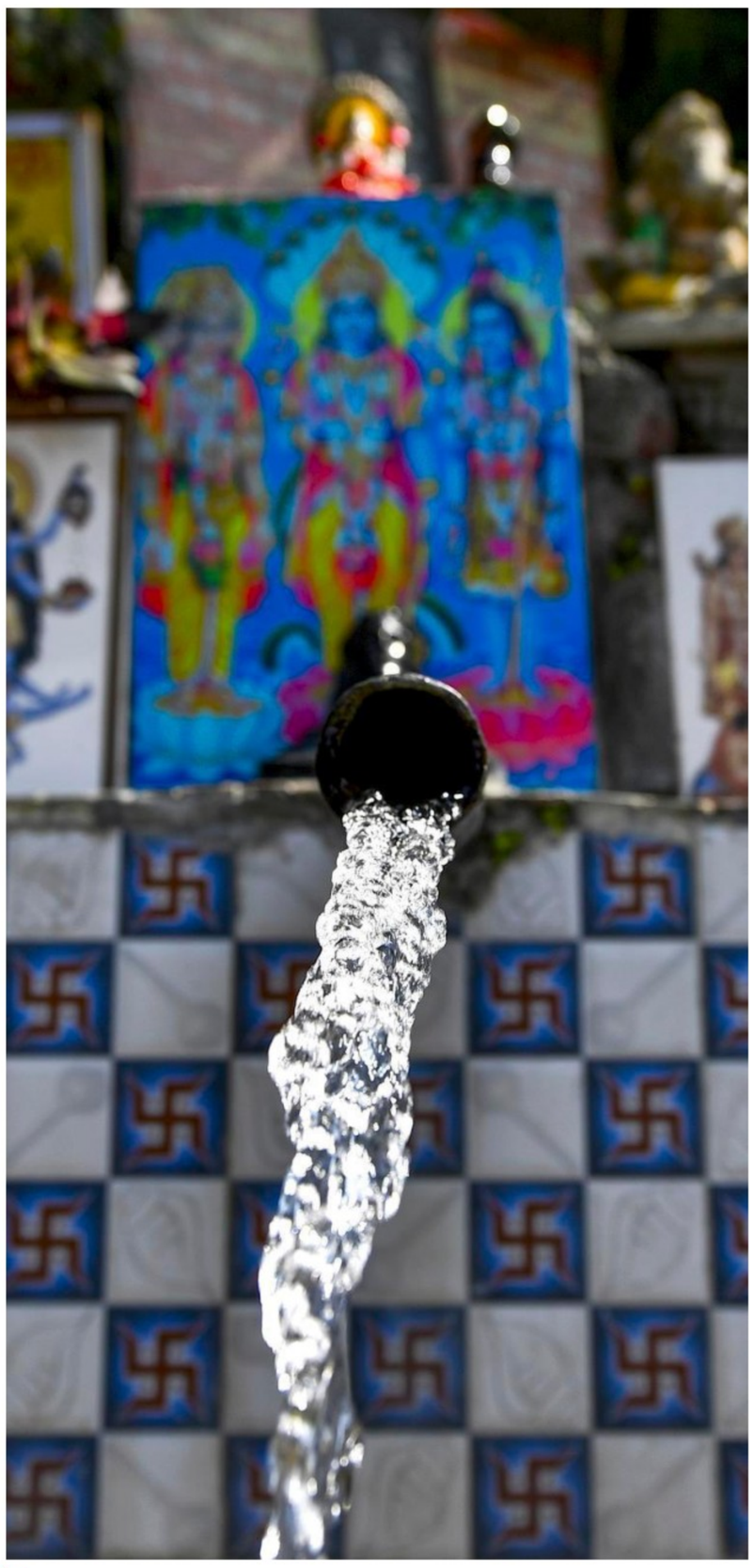
Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 12-06-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer
Project / Bengaluru
PUB/155/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways



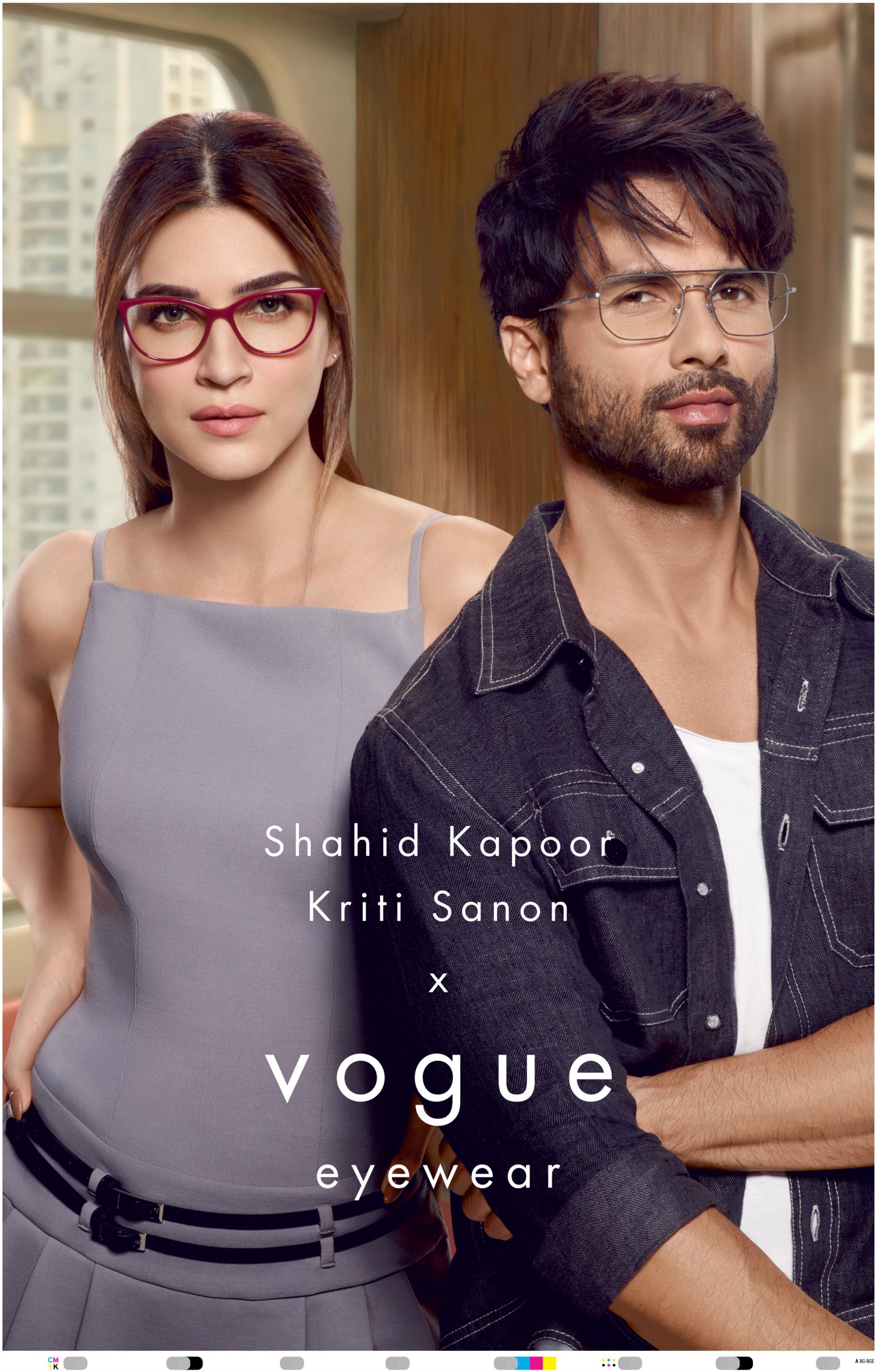
Storied stream: Water from a *dhara* flows through a pipe against the backdrop of decorative tiles with religious motifs in Lohali village, Nainital.

Slippery slope: Redevelopment on mountainsides, slope instability and rapid climate change are threatening the course of natural water flow.

Abandoned tanks: Plastic bottles and other waste materials inside a storage unit, which collects water from a *dhara* in Nainital.

Calm surface: The Nainital Lake, which gets water from the *dharas* and surface run-off from the surrounding mountains.

Lonely valley: A *naula* built along the hill slopes in Mangrao village of Nainital. Once revered as a water temple, the structure now stands as a reminder of human connection with nature.


Shahid Kapoor
Kriti Sanon
x
vogue
eyewear

Animal welfare activists attacked during cattle rescue operation

The incident allegedly took place in the presence of police personnel who had accompanied the activists for the operation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An animal welfare activist who was attacked being treated in Bengaluru on Saturday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Anugondanahalli police have registered an attempt to murder case against a group of men for allegedly attacking an animal welfare activist and his associate during a cattle rescue operation at Medimallasandra village in the early hours of Saturday.

The assault allegedly took place in the presence of police personnel who had accompanied the activists for the rescue operation.

Sanjay Kulkarni, an honorary Animal Welfare Officer associated with the Animal Welfare Board of India, was allegedly brutally assaulted by suspected cattle mafia members during the operation.

The incident reportedly occurred after activists received information that more than 100 cattle and 20 camels were allegedly being illegally confined in inhuman conditions ahead of Bakrid celebrations. According to complaints submitted by animal welfare volunteers, the animals were allegedly deprived of food, water, and shelter, while being prepared for illegal slaughter and sale.

The activists had submitted a written complaint to police on Friday, seeking urgent rescue action and legal intervention under various animal protection laws. The complaint also referred to earlier FIRs registered in the same area concerning similar illegal activities.

According to the complaint filed by Sanjay Kulkarni, the police personnel accompanied the complainants to a shed near a plywood factory in Medimallasandra around 11.40 p.m., where the cattle and camels were reportedly being hidden. Soon after reaching the spot, a group of men allegedly linked to the cattle mafia gathered at the location.

The complaint alleged that the attackers identified Kulkarni and other volunteers as the complainants while the police personnel were present and recording videos. The accused allegedly surrounded the activists, hurled abuses and threats, and launched a violent assault using sharp objects.

Kulkarni and another volunteer were allegedly punched, kicked, and assaulted, causing severe injuries and heavy bleeding. The complaint also stated that instead of ensuring protection and immediate arrests, the rescue operation was abandoned following the assault. The injured volunteers were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment while several accused allegedly fled from the spot.

The names mentioned in the complaint include Arafat Sheik, Ayub Pasha, Shaik Mujaid, and others. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case against the accused under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The police are currently verifying videos of the assault recorded by one of the activists to identify the accused involved in the attack.

Police constable's wife found dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The wife of a police constable attached to the HAL Police Station was found dead following prolonged harassment linked to dowry demands and domestic abuse, the police said on Friday.

The victim has been identified as Lakshmi Priya, 26. She was married to Rajesh Aaradhya in Mysuru on May 11, 2023. Rajesh Aaradhya is serving as a police constable at the HAL Police Station. According to the complaint filed by Lakshmi Priya's family, she was allegedly subjected to continuous mental and physical harassment by her husband Aaradhya and his parents, Palaksharadhya and Bhagyamma.

The complainant alleged that the accused repeatedly pressured and tortured Lakshmi Priya, causing severe emotional distress. The police said Priya had recently given birth to a baby girl and had stayed at her parental home for nearly six months post delivery.

On Friday at around 2.31 p.m., Priya reportedly sent her mobile phone password to her younger sister Jayashree through WhatsApp. Soon after, family members attempted to contact her, but she allegedly did not respond to their calls. When the complainant later contacted Aaradhya, he informed them that Priya had died.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case under Sections 80(2), 85 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani helpline 104.)

Cab driver assaulted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A gang of armed men assaulted a cab driver in the middle of a busy road causing panic among commuters, with the incident captured on CCTV cameras.

The incident took place on Friday on Double Road in the Wilson Garden Police Station limits and came to light after the video of the assault went viral on social media.

According to the police, the gang allegedly intercepted the cab, blocked the vehicle on the road, and dragged the driver out before assaulting him.

The exact motive behind the assault is yet to be ascertained.

The police said that although no formal complaint has been lodged so far, officers rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident and conducted an inspection.

Factory workers assaulted in Machohalli village; case registered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Smoking a beedi outside a factory proved costly for a 25-year-old worker who was allegedly assaulted by four men near an electroplating unit in Machohalli village in the Madanayakanahalli Police Station limits on Wednesday.

The accused allegedly returned with nearly 10 more associates and barged into the factory premises to assault workers for calling the police helpline for assistance. Based on a complaint on Friday, the police registered a case.

According to the complaint filed by Abhisheak Gowda, 27, an employee at Laxmidevi Electro Plate Factory in Machohalli village of Dasanapura Hobli, the incident took place on May 20 between 8.30 p.m. and 8.45 p.m. Gowda stated that he and six other workers were engaged in their regular duties when one of the workers, identified as Afsar, stepped outside the factory premises to smoke a beedi. Moments later, Afsar allegedly ran back into the factory shouting for help.

The complainant alleged that four unidentified men confronted Afsar outside the factory, accused him of smoking ganja, and demanded ganja from him. When he denied, the accused allegedly punched him in the face and assaulted him.

Abhisheak immediately dialled 112 seeking police assistance. However, before the police arrived, the accused allegedly fled from the spot. The complaint further stated that shortly afterwards, the same group returned along with several others, taking the total number of assailants to around 14 to 15 persons. The accused allegedly abused the workers for informing the police and assaulted Abhisheak, Afsar, and another worker identified as Yashas.

The attackers used metal sheets available inside the factory premises to assault the workers, causing injuries. They also allegedly threatened to kill the workers for reporting the incident to police.

The injured workers were later shifted to hospital. The police have registered a case under Sections 115(2), 118(1), 351(2), 352, and 190 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and have launched further investigation to identify and trace the accused.

Boxing coach held under POCSO Act for harassing trainee girl

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The SR Nagar police on Saturday arrested a 50-year-old boxing coach under the POCSO Act following allegations of harassment and criminal intimidation made by a 17-year-old trainee boxer associated with the Lion Boxing Club at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.

According to the complaint filed by the victim's mother, the minor girl has been training at the club for the past 10 years. The accused, identified as Ramachandra, 50, was her coach.

The complaint alleged that the coach had been behaving inappropriately with the girl over a prolonged period and that the incidents had intensified in recent months.

The family had reportedly earlier raised concerns before the club committee regarding his conduct, but no action had been taken. The police said the complaint further alleged that during a boxing competition trip to Chennai on May 17, the accused allegedly called the girl to his room, behaved inappropriately with her, and threatened her against informing family members about the incident.

The complainant also alleged that similar incidents had taken place earlier on the Kanteerava Stadium premises.

Classifieds

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GENERAL

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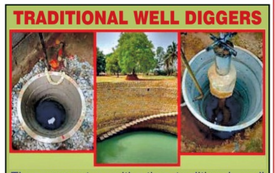

The encounter with the traditional well diggers from Mannu Vaddar Bhovi community was wonderful. Belonging to a community that has been digging wells for over several generations, Pedhanna and his son enkatesh, are part of a team volunteering for **"A million wells for Bengaluru"**, an initiative spearheaded by Vishwanth Srikantaiah for Biome Environmental Solutions. In a span of 40 years, Pedhanna has dug up an incredible number of over 5000 wells and his son Venkatesh Pedhanna has dug up over 2000 wells. Pedhanna has the ability to Identify places that have groundwater or otherwise. They are experts in Rain Water Harvesting, Open Well Digging, Recharging Wells & Bore wells and Cleaning Wells. Let's give back to the Earth what we extract from right beneath our feet. Let's catch every drop of rain and keep replenishing its water table! Reduce the dependence on tankers and keep recharging the ground. Avail the services of traditional diggers willing to travel to any parched land.

Contact :
Venkatesh Pedhanna : 9080739674, 9655421005

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FIR NO: GRP/ERODE Cr. No.76/2026
U/c Man missing.
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State to get India's second largest cricket stadium

The move comes despite opposition from a section of environmentalists who say the proposed stadium, which will come up close to wildlife corridor, will have an adverse impact on the environment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar giving site allotment documents symbolically to some of the applicants through the lottery system, in Anekal taluk on Saturday.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Karnataka will soon have the second largest cricket stadium after Gujarat, at Indlawadi village in Surya Nagar 4th phase, in Anekal Taluk.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced this after laying the foundation stone for an international cricket stadium and sports complex on Saturday, in a programme organised by the Housing Department and the Karnataka Housing Board at Suryanagar.

The stadium will have a capacity to seat 80,000 people along with other amenities for players and viewers.

At present, the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, with a seating capacity of 90,000 people, is the largest stadium in India. "A total of 4,000 acres have been acquired from farmers of which 75 acres will be used to construct an international cricket stadium and the rest will be used to build houses and plots which will be allotted to farmers as well as other applicants. By taking the initiative to build an international standard stadium in Suryanagar, we have paved the way for the comprehensive development of this area from all aspects including sports, tourism, job creation and economic growth," said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

He added, "After the stampede at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru that claimed 11 lives during the RCB victory celebrations, we decided to construct a bigger stadium that has a large seating capacity. Ours will be the second largest stadium in India. It was a much-needed infrastructure for the State to encourage sports and give opportunities for young talent in the State and country."

The move comes despite opposition from a section of farmers and environmentalists. The farmers had said that the area for the proposed stadium lies in proximity to the Karadikkal-Mahadeshwara wildlife corridor, and that constructing a huge stadium in this area would have an adverse impact on the environment and wildlife.

Features of the new stadium

- The 75-acre stadium will include a cricket ground, athletics track, indoor sports arena for badminton, basketball, volleyball, table tennis and others, an Olympic-size swimming pool, changing rooms, shower room, toilets, diving pool and practice pool meant for aspiring swimmers
- Apart from retail shops, restaurants and basement parking area, a convention centre, including an auditorium, exhibition halls, hall of fame and conference rooms will be made
- It will also include a medical centre, fitness centre, nutrition centre, physiotherapy centre and more

'Namma Mane' project

The Chief Minister also launched the 'Namma Mane' project by laying the foundation stone for the Surya Shine and Surya Divine housing programmes. He also gave site allotment documents symbolically to some of the applicants through lottery system.

Emphasising the role of the Housing Department in the State, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "The fact that the Housing Department and KHB, which were only building houses till now, are now moving forward with the construction of an 80,000-seat stadium is a vision of progress."

He also assured that the Housing Department as well as the KHB would construct the stadium after auctioning vacant sites across the State. These sites were allotted to people, but due to non-payment, they would be auctioned to generate revenue.

"It is estimated that the KHB will earn ₹20,000 crore from the sale of vacant KHB sites. The money earned from this will be used for the construction of the stadium, which is estimated at ₹943 crore," he said.

In addition to the development of this area, administrative approval has also been given for the construction of the main road of Jigani Hobli connecting Suryanagar and other villages.

Communities around two lakes flag concerns over BWSSB STPs coming up on lakebeds

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

A file photo of development work under progress in Hulimavu Lake.

Communities living around Soulkere and Hulimavu lakes have flagged concerns over the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) planning to construct new Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) inside the lakebeds of these lakes.

The Federation of Bengaluru Lakes, a coalition of stakeholder communities around lakes in the City, too has petitioned the BWSSB to reconsider the location.

BWSSB is planning to build a 40 MLD STP at Soulkere and a 15 MLD STP at Hulimavu Lake. Work has already begun at Soulkere.

"Lake bed is a protected zone where no construction activity is permitted. Multiple NGT orders have emphasised the need to maintain buffer zones around lakes. Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 prohibit permanent construction within a defined distance of the lake bed (around 50 metres) allowing only minimal, non-intrusive activities," FBL said in its letter.

"STPs should not compromise the ecological integrity and original water holding capacity of the lake itself, thus leading to flooding. STPs must be located outside the lakebed either in the buffer zones or at upstream sewage interception points," it further said.

Raise concerns

"Soulkere has been one of the sites for birdwatching, featured on the Great Indian Bird Count, every year and has exceptionally good biodiversity. STP on three of the 10 acres of the lakebed will kill the lake . BWSSB has been aggressively filling up this area with mud to build a STP. We have flagged encroachment of buffer zones repeatedly and even GBA Chief M. Maheshwar Rao inspected it. But there has been no action on the ground for years. Now saying the buffer zone is encroached, and building a STP on the lakebed is unacceptable," said a resident living around Soulkere.

Another resident living around Hulimavu Lake said that the lake was meant for flood mitigation. The lake has breached, leading to floods multiple times, the latest being in 2019. "If the lake has to act as a flood mitigation tool, it needs to have water retention capacity. But BWSSB wants to encroach the lake bed, build an STP and keep the lake full all the time. Hulimavu lake already has a 10 MLD STP built in 2021, which they had said can be enhanced. But now they say it cannot be done and are building a new STP of 15 MLD capacity on the lake bed," he said.

V. Ramprasad, President, FBL, said the Federation appeals to BWSSB to reconsider its decision. "We are not opposed to STPs and we want to work with the Board. But the ecological integrity of the lake bed is a priority. If the Board persists, we are open to approach the World Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), using whose funding these projects are being taken up, to flag damage to the lakes," he said.

Buffer zones

Sources said that BWSSB was forced to opt for building STPs on wetlands, lakebeds where buffer zones have been completely encroached and developed

BWSSB Chairman V. Ram Prasath Manohar said that the Board was not violating any norms and their DPRs were approved by the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority.

"These lakes are in a critical condition and STPs are being built to save them. We have decided to desilt these lakes to compensate for the carrying capacity lost due to the STPs," he said.

'Take steps to protect students from abuse'

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of Technical Education (DTI) has issued a circular to colleges in its jurisdiction to take appropriate measures to protect students from abuse and exploitation, including the appointment of psychiatrists, counsellors and implementation of a digital and cyber safety policy.

Adolescence is a very sensitive stage in the life of a child. During this period physical, mental and social changes occur drastically, the circular noted.

This follows recommendation by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR).

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) should be implemented to report on sexual offences in every college and a Code of Conduct should be put in place for all staff and students. Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, if there is any suspicion of child marriage, the authorities concerned should be informed immediately. It was also recommended that all colleges display the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on a permanent display board.

Among administrative measures, the order stated that qualified psychological counsellor should be appointed in every college. Adolescent health, sexual safety, online safety and legal awareness programmes should be conducted at least once every year. A digital safety and cyber security policy should be implemented in all colleges. Strict action should be taken against child pornography and online exploitation as per the Information Technology (IT) Act, the order noted.

A parent-student-counsellor meeting should be held at least once every semester. All students should be made to visit their nearest police station once a year under the 'Open House' programme.

Over 2,700 citizens attend GBA's second e-Khata drive

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 2,704 citizens attended the 'e-Khata Open Houses' camp across city corporations on Saturday, marking the second week of the "Nanna e-Khata, Nanna Hakku" initiative.

Across all five city corporations, authorities recorded 809 e-Khata applications, 123 mutation applications, 493 correction requests, 304 B to A Khata conversion applications, and 234 new applications. Overall, 1,164 cases were disposed of against the 2,704 citizen attendances, while 1,008 cases remain pending.

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4.26 Crore Beneficiaries Receive Food Security | The Dream of a 'Hunger-Free Karnataka' Realised

Anna Bhagya -A Modern Form of the Dasoha Tradition

Guarantee Varthe

Bengaluru: "Aashe ichchegenna gaasi maadadirayya, dasohiyaagirpa daasanagirisenna Koodala sangamadeva, dharma" - these immortal lines from Jagajyothi Basavanna's vachana highlight the true essence of compassion and dasoha that every human being must embody. This noble vision of the Sharanas has found expression in the Karnataka Government's Annabhagya scheme. Among the five Guarantee schemes announced by the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after assuming office in 2023, Annabhagya has emerged as one of the most significant and successful schemes, reaching the grassroots and benefiting the most vulnerable sections of society.

The scheme was launched with the objective of providing a total of 10 kg of food grains per month to every member of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya cardholder families in the state. When the Central Government failed to supply the required quantity of rice, the State Government did not remain passive. Instead, in place of the additional 5 kg of rice promised, it directly transferred cash benefits to beneficiaries' bank accounts at the rate of ₹34 per kg through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), amounting to ₹11,821 crore until December 2024, thereby upholding its promise of being a "government that delivers on its word." Over the last three years, Annabhagya has addressed hunger among 4.26 crore families and fulfilled Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's vision of a "Hunger-Free Karnataka."

Daily wage workers, auto drivers, agricultural labourers, and economically weaker families have been saving thousands of rupees every month on food expenses due to the Annabhagya scheme. For nearly a year, poor families used the cash directly credited to their bank accounts to purchase pulses, oil, vegetables, and other nutritious food items, as well as pay school fees for their children. The scheme has brought about a transformative change in reducing malnutrition and strengthening the rural economy.

Crores of Beneficiaries: According to government data, more than 4.26 crore beneficiaries across the state continue to benefit from the Annabhagya scheme. Up to 2023–24, thousands of crores of rupees have been transferred directly into the accounts of poor families through DBT, ensuring transparency. The Public Distribution System (PDS) has been further strengthened, and technology has been successfully leveraged to ensure benefits reach eligible beneficiaries.

A Model for the Nation: No other state in the country has implemented free food grains and direct cash transfer support on such a large scale. Karnataka's model of hunger-free and nutritional security is today being widely appreciated by other states and social experts across the country.

'Indira Kit' to be Implemented Soon

The Cabinet has already approved the distribution of the Indira Food Kit (Integrated Nutrition and Dietary Initiative for Revitalizing Annabhagya Beneficiaries) in place of the additional 5 kg of rice under the Annabhagya scheme. Based on family size, beneficiaries will receive tur dal, sunflower oil, sugar, and salt instead of the additional rice.

The Chief Minister has already instructed that the food kit include a maximum quantity of nutritious turdal. Additionally, software enabling QR code scanning will be installed at every fair price shop, based on which ration card holders will receive the Indira Food Kit.

Siddaramaiah Becomes 'Annaramayya'!

Within hours of taking oath as CM in 2013, Siddaramaiah announced the Annabhagya scheme. Initially offering rice at just ₹1 and later making it completely free, he earned recognition for addressing hunger among the poor. Since then, people of Karnataka affectionately began calling him "Annaramayya." The Annabhagya scheme was reinitiated in a stronger form after 2023 as one of the Five Guarantees. What began as a politically determined welfare initiative has become a source of hope for people in the state.

Statistics

4.26 Crore Total Beneficiaries
More than ₹18,897 Crore utilised so far on Annabhagya

> My son met with an accident and has been bedridden at home. I am the only earning member supporting the family. Earlier, when there was no food, we used to walk barefoot and survive on fruits from the forest. Now, we receive rice through Annabhagya. Thanks to our Siddaramaiah, we are able to live peacefully
>
> **Jademadamma, Chamarajanagar**

> After my husband's death, I struggled to continue our traditional pottery business due to lack of capital. During that difficult time, the Annabhagya scheme became a major support for my family. The free rice and groceries provided by the government completely removed the anxiety of arranging three meals a day for my family.
>
> **Mahadevi, Indi**

> My dream was to live independently without depending on anyone. The Annabhagya scheme gave me strong support. Without worrying about food, and with savings from all the guarantees, I was able to buy a cow and start dairy farming. Today, I live with dignity through the income I earn from selling milk every day.
>
> **Neelamma, Belthangady**

karnataka information

A Fight Against Poverty

I know what hunger caused by poverty feels like. That is why, on my very first day as Chief Minister, I signed the Annabhagya scheme. My aspiration was that no poor person in the state should sleep hungry. That sacred initiative which began then, has today reached crores of homes as a 'Guarantee', and that gives me immense satisfaction.

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

A Hunger-Free Society is the Foundation of a New Karnataka

Responding to people's hardships is our foremost duty. Building a hunger-free society is the foundation of a New Karnataka. Through Annabhagya and the five Guarantee schemes, our government is committed to making Karnataka the most progressive and welfare-oriented state in the country.

D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Food Security Reaches the Last Citizen

Our department has successfully fulfilled the responsibility of transparently delivering the visionary Annabhagya scheme of the Chief Minister to eligible beneficiaries. The Food Department remains committed to ensuring food security reaches even the last poor citizen of the state.

- K.H. Muniyappa, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies

Minimum wages: Garment, beedi among 19 sectors yet to see revision

Minimum wages revised after a gap of 10 years for 65 employments; wages fixed for 18 employments for the first time

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Even as the Karnataka government notified the final revised minimum wages for the scheduled employment on Friday, revision for 19 sectors, including those for garment, beedi and plantation workers, is yet to happen.

The minimum wages for 65 scheduled employments, including four in hazardous ones, have now been revised and fixed. In addition, for the first time, 18 employments, including non-teaching staff in educational institutions, employees of e-commerce and courier companies, and office staff of religious and social institutions such as temples, Mutts, churches, mosques, and gurdwara, have been brought under the minimum wage.

The 19 scheduled employments kept out of the revision cycle include handloom and powerloom workers, agarbathi rolling, agriculture and allied work, brick work, rubber, tea and coffee plantation workers, besides workers in the garment sector. ALLEN EGENUSE J

Range of revision

The final notification, which was available on Saturday, shows that the minimum wages for these 83 scheduled employments range from ₹21,251 per month for unskilled worker in zone 3 to ₹34,225 per month for the highly skilled worker in zone 1, which is the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) region.

The revision is expected to help over one crore employees in the State. The 19 employments that have remained outside the minimum wage revision have more than 10 lakh workers. The 19 scheduled employments, considered "piece work" in nature or labour intensive, kept out of this revision cycle including handloom and powerloom workers, agarbathi rolling, agriculture and allied work, brick work, rubber, tea and coffee plantation workers, besides workers in the garment sector.

> Historically, beedi, plantation and garment factory workers have received lower wages
>
> **K. MAITREYI**
> State secretary of All India Central Council of Trade Unions

"Historically, beedi, plantation and garment factory workers have received lower wages. In fact, when a random revision of minimum wages was announced for garment workforce in January 2023, the revised wages was less than the minimum wages fixed for other employments in 2017. This is not only wage disparity, but also gender discrimination since garment factory workforce is predominantly women," said K. Maitreyi, State secretary of All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU).

According to the Labour Department officials, individual committees would be set up for each of 19 employments that would recommend wage revision directly to the government.

"They will not come under the Minimum Wage Advisory Board. While some committees are in the process of finalising minimum wages, some are yet to be set up," the officials said.

Expressing frustration, president of Garments and Textile Workers' Union (GATWU) H.R. Prathiba said that fresh wages should be notified that are on a par with the revision done to other scheduled employment.

"The State government is deliberately discriminating against employments where women are dominant in the work force," she alleged.

Protest withdrawn

Meanwhile, welcoming the final notification, the Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU), an umbrella organisation for 11 trade unions in Karnataka, has announced withdrawal of agitation announced for May 27.

"Retrospective implementation of minimum wages from 2022 is the need of the hour as the real wage of the workers has eroded due to non-revision of wages since 2017," the JCTU said.

It further said that despite this revision, more than 10 lakh workers in garment, beedi and plantation sectors have been left out of the notification.

Employers may approach court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Employers, who were taken by surprise with the final notification of minimum wage for scheduled employment, are likely to go to court. According to B.C. Prabhakar, president of Karnataka Employers' Association, the final notification violated Karnataka High Court direction and also the rule of law.

"We had opposed the minimum wage revision since it makes the operations unviable due to very high wage. Besides it could reduce flow of investments. With the four Industrial Codes coming into force, this notification based on Minimum Wages Act, 1948, is void. We will approach the court," he said. A number of employers are likely to meet on Monday to decide on the future course of action.

BMCRI moots centralised diagnostic hub to ease burden at Victoria Hospital's Infosys lab

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

With mounting pressure on the central diagnostic laboratory on Victoria Hospital campus due to increasing patient load, the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) is now working on a proposal to streamline laboratory and patient services.

The laboratory built by the Infosys Foundation serves several hospitals under the BMCRI. A sharp rise in patient load is resulting in long delays for tests and reports. The proposal is to bring the Infosys laboratory and five other laboratories within the campus under one roof.

The proposal is to bring the Infosys laboratory and five other laboratories within the campus under one roof. FILE PHOTO

Space identified

BMCRI director and dean Kavya S.T. told *The Hindu* that the plan is to set up a centralised laboratory under one roof. "We have identified the place for this laboratory on the top floor of the outpatient department building. Blood and urine samples can be collected directly in the Out Patient Department (OPD) area, reducing the need for patients to move across multiple buildings. We are working on it and will soon submit the proposal to the government," she said.

Hospitals under the BMCRI, including Victoria Hospital, Minto Eye Hospital, Vani Vilas Hospital, the Institute of Nephro-Urology, PMSSY Hospital, Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant (IGOT), ENT Hospital, Trauma and Emergency Care Centre, Government Dental Hospital and the Mahabodhi Burns Unit, depend heavily on the Infosys laboratory for a wide range of investigations.

The BMCRI authorities said the facility now handles samples from around 1,500 to 1,600 patients every day, with more than 5,000 tests processed daily. As a result, patients often spend hours waiting to submit samples or collect reports.

Fully automated lab

Deepak Shivanna, Medical Superintendent of Victoria Hospital, said the plan is to establish a fully centralised, automated diagnostic laboratory to ease the pressure on the existing facility.

He said the BMCRI was strengthening its in-house laboratory services in line with the National Medical Commission norms. However, with multiple hospitals relying on the present system, the existing arrangement is under severe strain. "The idea is to make it fully automated and patient-friendly. Patients should not have to move from one building to another for different tests. Reports can be accessed digitally, even by scanning a barcode," Dr. Shivanna said.

The Infosys laboratory was established in 2006 and was adequate for the needs of that period. However, with patient numbers increasing sharply over the years, infrastructure and manpower have not expanded proportionately.

Sources said each laboratory section ideally requires at least 10 technicians, but several sections are functioning with only four to five staff members.

There is also no full-fledged facility for cancer-related diagnostic testing, forcing several suspected patients to be referred to Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.

The laboratory building remains crowded throughout the day.

Due to space constraints, only one counter is available for several services, leading to long queues and congestion.

SEP unlikely to be implemented this year: Madhu Bangarappa

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said the State Education Policy is unlikely to be implemented during the academic year 2026-27.

Responding to queries from reporters after meeting litterateur Devanur Mahadeva at his residence in Mysuru on Saturday and seeking his guidance for reforms in the education sector, Mr. Bangarappa said a Cabinet Sub-Committee has been set up to study the recommendations of the State Education Policy Commission pertaining to Higher Education. The recommendations pertaining to School Education - which are smaller in volume compared to Higher Education - will be sent to the Cabinet next for discussions. "The recommendations (pertaining to School Education) will be sent to the Cabinet by mid-June after the schools reopen". After discussions in the Cabinet, the recommendations will be sent to a Cabinet Sub-Committee. "After the Cabinet Sub-Committee okays the recommendations, it will again have to come back to the Cabinet before it can be implemented," he said.

School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa called on writer Devanur Mahadeva at his residence in Mysuru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Though the SEP can be introduced midway in the academic year, it may affect the learning process, felt Mr. Bangarappa.

However, he expressed reservations with the National Education Policy 2020, brought in by the Centre, and said the State government will not allow the Centre to introduce their "ideology" into the education policy.

He said the State government had already revised the textbooks in Karnataka as per the manifesto of the Congress party for the 2023 Assembly elections.

Hijab

Justifying the government's decision on granting permission for hijab, Mr. Bangarappa said the dress code introduced in educational institutions in Karnataka is on the lines of the rules already prevailing in Kendriya Vidyalaya institutions run by the Centre.

Pointing out that educational institutions in Maharashtra too have identical rules, he said Karnataka cannot have a separate law. "As an Education Minister, I have to ensure equality. Our manifesto too had promised the same and I have to keep the promises made in the manifesto," he said.

When his attention was drawn to the demand by BJP to allow saffron shawls also in the educational institutions, Mr. Bangarappa said let them go to Kendriya Vidyalaya with the shawls first and he would react to it later.

Hitting out at the BJP for questioning his educational qualification, Mr. Bangarappa asked the saffron party leaders to show Prime Minister Narendra Modi's qualification and he will reveal his. However, he said he completed his Pre-University College (PUC) before gravitating towards business and becoming a film producer. Claiming that he gave several people employment while also forming a company, Mr Bangarappa said his attention towards his business had now been reduced due to his preoccupation with politics. To another question, Mr. Bangarappa said he can speak Kannada fluently, but finds writing in Kannada a bit difficult.

He also remarked that he has more humanity, which his father had taught him than education, and he gives priority to children over God.

Man found dead with injuries on his throat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old man allegedly ended his life by slitting his throat, in the Ashok Nagar Police Station limits on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Gautam, a resident of Wilson Garden. The police said passers-by noticed his body lying in an empty graveyard site and alerted the authorities. Owing to the nature of the injuries, the incident was initially suspected to be a case of murder. The police carried out a preliminary investigation. During the course of inquiry, the officials found evidence indicating that Gautam had allegedly taken the extreme step himself. The investigators learnt that the deceased was reportedly mentally disturbed and had recently escaped from a rehabilitation centre. The police said his mother had left him, while his father passed away few years ago.

No suicide note was recovered from the spot, the police said. The police have registered a case.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani ph: 104 for assistance.)

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, MAY. 24		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:40
RISE	13:05	SET 00:56
MONDAY, MAY. 25		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:40
RISE	13:54	SET 01:34
TUESDAY, MAY. 26		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:41
RISE	14:41	SET 02:10

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	31	22
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be slight warm. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower.

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First organ donation in Kodagu; 46-year-old brain dead man's organs retrieved at KIMS

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

An organ retrieval procedure was successfully carried out at Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) in Madikeri in the early hours of Saturday, marking the first organ donation in Kodagu district.

In a procedure described as a significant milestone in the medical history of Kodagu district, the kidneys, heart valves and corneas were successfully retrieved from a 46-year-old accident victim after he was declared brainstem dead.

A statement here said that Dalu, a resident of Aravathoklu village near Gonikoppal, had sustained severe head injuries in an accident and was admitted to KIMS Hospital. Despite treatment and after 48 hours of observation, a medical board conducted an examination and confirmed the brainstem death of the patient.

Accident victim Dalu, 46, whose organs were retrieved at KIMS in Madikeri for donation. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"At this critical moment, Dalu's wife Rajeshwari and other family members took a deeply humanitarian decision and consented to organ donation," the statement said.

As KIMS, Madikeri had already received recognition from State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO and National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), the case was reported to SOTTO and the organ retrieval process was taken up. The operation was conducted under the leadership of Dean and Director of KIMS Dr. Lokesh A.J., Hospital Superintendent Dr. Somashekhar, and District Surgeon Dr. Nanjundayya. ICU specialist Dr. Nisheed Joseph and Nursing Officer Pavan maintained the donor's physiological stability.

"The surgery commenced at 2 a.m., during which both kidneys, heart valves, and corneas were successfully retrieved. Urosurgeons Dr. Sachin Dharwadkar and Dr. Vijaykumar, who arrived from Mysuru, carried out the kidney retrieval. Dr. Abhinandan and Dr. Chandrashekhar retrieved the heart valves, while Dr. Shruti and her team retrieved the corneas," said the statement.

The transportation of the organs to the hospital for transplantation to the recipients was arranged by Deputy Commissioner S. J. Somashekar and Superintendent of Kodagu district police Bindu Rani R. N.

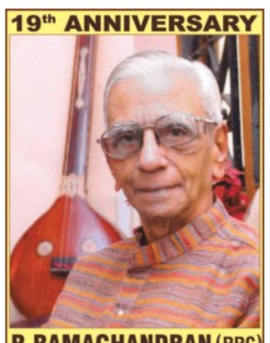
Later, Dalu's mortal remains were handed over to the family through a ceremonial "Walk of Honour." Doctors, hospital staff, and the nursing team paid tribute to the donor's service to humanity, and the family was honoured for their noble decision. "At a time when the need for organs is rising rapidly in India, the decision taken by Dalu's family has given new hope to many lives," said Dr. Lokesh.

According to a statement here, India recorded around 18,900 organ transplant surgeries in 2024 - the highest-ever in the country's history - giving India the third position in the world for highest number of organ transplants after the United States and China.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

19th ANNIVERSARY



R.RAMACHANDRAN (RRC)
1st Jan 1924 – 24th May 2007
Fondly Remembered by
FAMILY, FRIENDS & HAMSADHWANI

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of

CA. J Purushothaman
A brilliant mind and a gentle soul.
An ICAI All India Rank holder and an exceptional mentor, he touched countless lives with his wisdom and humility.
A beloved brother, a treasured friend and a deeply loving father.
Deeply missed by
Family, Friends and Students

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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BJP - KARNATAKA

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SRI NITIN NABIN

The youngest President of BJP,
whose astute strategy and exceptional
organisational leadership is taking the party
to unprecedented heights.

On his maiden visit to Karnataka after assuming
office as National President,
following the historic victories in West Bengal,
Assam and Puducherry!

WE EXTEND OUR WARM AND HEARTFELT WELCOME

24th May 2026
Sunday

SRI B Y VIJAYENDRA
BJP State President

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Classifieds

thehinduads.com

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
ASSAMESE
AWADHI
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BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
GUJARATI
HARYANI
HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
MARATHI
MARWARI
NEPALI
ORIYA
PARSI
PUNJABI
SAURASHTRA
SINDHI
TAMIL
TELUGU
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ENGINEER
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MBA/ CA/ ICWA
NRI
COSMOPOLITAN
DIVORCEE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

DIVORCEE

HINDU DIVORCEE, 45 yrs, Very fair, No child, Seeks Qualified Groom. CNB. 9880151826

HINDU PILLAI 47, B.E Chennai employed divorcee (no kids) 170 cm, seeks groom working in Govt or Pvt, monthly salary of 30K & above. Only divorcee or widower call: 7200757324

BEAUTIFUL, KIND 39, 163cm, responsible, well–educated professional. Seeks smart, warm, compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

DOCTOR

✔ **ROMAN CATHOLIC, MD (Anaesthesiology), Reputed School, College, 27 yrs, Fair, Highly Educated Family in Chennai, Seeks Doctors Catholic groom, WhatsApp Profile – 7550065082**

VANIYAR 31, MBBS/ MS, Midhunam, Thiruvadurai, Slim seeks MBBS/ MS Doctor Groom only. Contact: 9444259255

REDDY SPECIALIST Doctor (MS) 165 Cm 1990 born Elite family. Own practice in Chennai. Seek never married Elite groom Caste No Bar. 8925640111

NADAR 25 yrs, 5'3". Beautiful Bride Studied MD in abroad, Native of Tirunelveli lives in Chennai. Father high ranked TN Govt officer. Upper Middle Class family. Expecting Doctor or Similar Professional groom from Nadar Caste. Ct. 9500124086

Suitable Alliance Invited for a 32-year Old Bride (DOB: 18.01.1994) from the Kongu Vellalar Gounder community (Kooraikulam). Ht: 168 cm, Wt: 65 kg. She has completed MBBS and MD (Pathology). Presently Working as Asst Prof (Grade-I) at Christian Medical College, Vellore. Native of Erode.
Seeking a well-educated Groom from the Same community only, preferably a Doctor or Engineer, from a respectable family background. For details / horoscope Contact: 94438-94222 / 94866-69193 / 99949-36353.

BRIDE GROOM WANTED
Tamil Muslim, doing MD (derm), well settled Industrialist family in Chennai.
Seeks Medico MD / MS Groom from a well settled family.
27yrs / 158cm / Fair
Contact:
Jabbarshahul64@gmail.com
98840 15371
96000 74295

Seeking a Doctor Groom
An Obstetrics and Gynaecologist 28, 156, Fair, from a respected, education - oriented, tamil (Udayar Hindu) Chennai based family, seeks a groom with matching calibre, from a family of similar standing.
Family enquiries only
Ct : 98410 78080

DKV, 29 years, Female Radiologist, Divorced, Chennai, prefer, IAS/ Doctor/Officers Contact: 9047119910

Hindu Tamil Pillai, Girl MBBS (25/168) Fair, Chithrai-4 /Swathi-1 Thulam Rasi, seeks professional groom preferably Doctor. Ph. 9940533051.

Hindu Tamil SCA Dr. MD General Medicine, 29/158, working at Ooty Medical College and Hospital seeks Groom, qualified in the same line. Contact: 9944097672.

ENGINEER

Wanted Groom-Muslim
1997, 5'6", beautiful, fair, Stanford Master's. Multi-talented/compassionate, Seeks well-qualified groom from Top 15 US schools or Top 15 schools in India.
(E) uzsh0214@gmail.com

ENGLISH

HINDU DEVENDRAKULAVELLALAR girl good looking 31yrs 160cm 68kg B.Tech(IT) MSc (Psy), magaram uthradam. Dad Retd GM IOC, Mom homemaker. Seeks well placed groom with clean habits good family values. Ph 7550307487, 9444401218

COSMOPOLITAN

WARM CHRISTIAN 26, cheerful, thoughtful, enterprising. Affluent, cultured Tamil family. Seeks smart, compatible groom. Call/WA 9345 634 365

✔ **Suitable Alliance** for 28 years old Christian Bride, doing M.D., Tamil Parents, Hyderabad based (Father-retd. Sr. Executive, Private Service, Mother-Consultant Physician). Contact: WhatsApp - 79972 79991, Email: pcig6961@gmail.com

ACS MBA Working MNC Naidu Issueless Divorcee. 50 yrs, Seeks Groom CNB. Contact : 87788 73501

34YRS BTECH (NIT) MBA IIT working in MNC Chennai 24 LPA Fair looking for suitable match CNB Ct:9940507235

THE HINDU
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MALAYALAM

NAIR DOCTOR Girl DM 32 yrs 161cm seeks Doctor/Professional. Contact 8089584220/9249920550

DM DOCTOR Girl, 156/1992, Chennai seeks for suitable alliance. 9497168001, 9447493034

EZHAVA GIRL, 31/160, MBBS, MS, Gynec, fair, beatiful, upper-middle class, Senior Resident in a Govt. Med. College. Doctors/Professionals from Delhi/NCR/North India preferred. Mob: 8281425422.

NRI

TAMIL MUDALIAR Girl, UAE MNC, 3.5 LPM, DOB: 26/12/94, Caste No Bar, Ct: 8667248379

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR Dec1996 165cm MBBS MD MRCS working in Apollo Hospital Chennai Seeks Doctor Groom MBBS MD MS. Contact: 9444421884. 8122682017

CHRISTIAN, CSI, BE, Entrepreneur, searching for a Rich/affluent groom from CSI and Christian Nadar from 25-29. 8138900235

RCSC CHRISTIAN, searching for any subcaste, Govt job grooms for my daughter from 32-36. 7356483111

CATHOLIC, MSC, 70 lakhs, UK, searching for a groom in any subcaste from 28-34. 8138900412

BORN AGAIN Christian, 45yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

GOVT. DOCTOR (MD). 38yrs,157cm. Fair. Never married.RC.Christian (Vaniyar).Seeks Eng/Doc/Other professionals/caste no bar/ 38–40yrs. Never Married Christian Groom. India/abroad. Ct: 9940529886 / 9600573068

CHRISTIAN, PG, 30, AD / PR, Reputed Hospital, Contact: 94425 22322

HINDU NADAR, – B.E, M.B.A – 30/ 158cm Software Engineer – Udangudi – Seeking Bridegroom Cell: 9626735777

BRIDEGROOM WANTED for a well–to–do hindu family's bride age 43, first marriage, degree–MSW, want from (FC, BC, MBC), working within India. CT: 9080359664.

BE/30/155 Pooradam Fair good looking rich Mudaliar with moral values seek suitable groom. 7975421774

✔ **ALLIANCE INVITED for Hindu SC girl, 26 yrs, 169 cm, LLM, 25LPA, Associate in Capital Markets at a top–tier law firm, Mumbai/Chennai. Looking for a well–settled, professionally qualified groom from same community. Ph: 9152236196**

Alliance invited from a well settled and educated family for a 37y old independent, career-oriented woman. Height: 160 cm, highly qualified, currently working as international teacher in Dubai. Legally divorced, no children, seeking mature & responsible groom. Telugu / Tamil pref. Divorcees welcome. Contact: 94451 20943 . Email: rajanisuganthi@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED SC (AD),34yrs, ME, well educated family background in Chennai Ph; 9962791888

GROOM WANTED Mudaliyar,26yrs, BE, Own Transports in Chennai, Affluent family Ph: 6385293227

DEVAR 28 170cm M arch Australia seeks well Qualified Grooms in Australia Devar only Geetham 9884858014

KAMMAVAR NAIDU 26 160cm BE Chennai seeks professionals India / Abroad Naidu Only Geetham 9884858014

LOOKING FOR a suitable Bridegroom for a vanniar girl, aged 28 yrs, B.Com B.L. Hons with ACS & employed in a big Corporate. Similar profile or other Professionals with good family background based in Chennai preferred ct: 9003199945 / 9003035547

VANNIYA KULA Kshatriyar, 26/5.2, BArch, Star–Karthigai, Rishaba Rasi, Working in Chennai. Seeks Suitable & Qualified Groom. Ph: 9840926156

DKV/SC, 32/ May 94, 167cm, Fair, BE (CS), Parents Hindu / CSI, Seeks Groom Dr./Er. / Abroad. Ct:8056143638

VANNIYAR, (27/164), LLM, Beautiful, Working in a Pvt Concern Chennai seeks suitable groom. Ct. 9940655572

RISHIBAM, KARTHIGAI 42/152 M.Com, B.Ed, Veg seeks Employed groom Caste No Bar, BC,MBC prefd Ct:8682080448

FASHION DESIGNER SaivaMudaliar Anusham 33 VeryFair Propertied Need Veg IT/ Govt Employed Groom 9566268349

ANY VEG (MIN 75K) for saivapillai, age28,salary 1.5L 2 flat owner thirivathirai,simmam.9382211111

TAMIL

PARENTS of Tamil Hindu SC (AD) 29/150 Dr III PG Pediatrics in Bangalore seeks groom of MD/MS clinical subject from same community Tamil & Kannada language from Bangalore. Ph. 9739271395 / 9483517690

DOCTOR MD ANS HINDU NADAR 30 YR 170 CM seeks groom DR ER GOVT BANK details 9976610580

DOCTOR PARENTS, 28 yrs Daughter (High - Functioning Special Child) seeks Hindu Nadar Groom from Madurai. Ct: 94437 51221

RC TAMIL, 1997/156cm, Radiographer, DRDT, seeks liberal– minded, suitable match, 9443784674, 00447878127414, mselvaraj24@yahoo.com.Caste no bar.

MUDALIYAR, ENT Surgeon, looking for a equal caste in Masters, Civil services and Well educated groom for my Daughter from 30-35. 8138900312

DIVORCED BRIDE, UK, looking for a rich and affluent groom in Hindu or Christian from 31-36. 8138900652

GROOM WANTED Naidu,30yrs,B.Tech, Divorce,Affluent business family in Chennai:6385293227

GROOM WANTED CNB, 27yrs, MBBS, MD, well educated family background in Chennai: 6385293227

HINDU SC/AD Age 38, BE Software Engineer, TCS Rs.1.50 Lakh/PM. Seeks Qualified Employed Groom. Contact: 99521 47216 / 88380 34943.

BRAHMIN PARENTS, Haritha Gothram, Tamil, 24yrs, Fair, Cultured, Polite, Non-career minded graduate Bride from affluent family seeks Professionally Qualified, Pure Veg, teetotaller Groom from similar family. Contact: 9344106301. email: askasiviswanathan@hotmail.com

YADHAVA /1990 BORN / Govt Job / PSU – Health Care / Salem / 8.00 LPA / Veg /Caste no bar in BC or OBC. CT: 9597459651 or 9443985816.

SC AD 1986 Group 1officer First marriage seeks qualified groom/CNB/ 9566344334/9600561320

MUDALIAR 27/163 Beautiful, MBBS DM, Global Hospitals,2500000 PA, Elite ,60 Cr,CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

GROOM WANTED SC (AD), 28yrs, MBA, well educated family background in Chennai Ph: 6385293227

NAIDU, 30YRS, 5'7", B.Arch, Beautiful Bride, Lives in Trichy. Family is in to Real Estate Business and very affluent. Net worth is more than 150 crores. Expecting a professional groom from affluent family, Any caste is accepted. Ct. 9500124086

HINDU, SC, 38 yrs, BE, MBA, 80,000 P/M, Divorcee, No Children. Looking for Groom in Chennai under 42 in a well Settled Job 9840429449

HINDU GOOD looking Devendrakulavellalar girl B.Tech(IT) MSc (Psy), 31yrs 160cm 68kg uthradam. Dad Retd GM IOC, Mom homemaker. Seeks qualified well placed groom with clean habits good family values.ph 7550307487, 9444401218.

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar 24 yrs,BE,M.Tech,SWE,1lp/m elite business family Ph:9380791999/, 9841329471

HINDU SC 29yrs CA TN Govt seeks groom 8088613172

HINDU SC AD girl 25/162cm, BA LLB Honours, (LLM), working in Madras High court, suitable bridegroom expected from Govt. Officer, caste no bar, contact no–8939911100, Mail Id: princeiasacademy.pblr@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR parents invite alliance for their daughter, 29yrs, 164.5cm, well–educated, accomplished professional from a well–established & reputed family. Seeking well–settled, Professionally accomplished/ Business class groom from a respectable Hindu Nadar family. Ct: 8939968399

AGE 34 Yrs Nadar Doctor Divorcee, (Marriage not consummated) Seeks Only Doctor,Nadar Groom No issues Mail with Photo: sairamravi708@gmail.com

BRAHMIN, MODERATE family, MDS, all languages groom, location in Mumbai from 29-32 well educated doctor or other professionals. 8138900533

BEAUTIFUL, CARING 33, 165cm, intelligent (Master's), soft–spoken professional. Cultured, VEG, TamBram. Noted industrialist family. Seeks compatible groom. Call/WA 93456 34365

Tamil Yadava Girl , MBA
24 yrs / 160cm, from an affluent family, fair & good Looking Thiruvathirai star
Seeks a Good Looking, well Educated and Settled Groom
Age: 25 to 27 years
contact : 9884262668

BRIDES WANTED

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

IYER, 2ND Marriage, 44, B.E, Job in Chennai MNC Company, Wanting any suitable Vegetarian bride, 7418006626, vijaydeep1947@gmail.com

COSMOPOLITAN

US–RETURNED MS (USA), 33/6ft, Sr. Manager, MNC, Chennai; mutually divorced. Seeking educated, professional, open–minded, family–oriented bride (28–34); CNB/divorcee welcome. 98430–45585

SMART, SUCCESSFUL 30, 185cm, sociable, educated (BL/IIM), 2nd–gen biz owner. Respected, industrialist family. Seeks compatible bride. Lang. & caste no bar. Call/ WA 93456 34365

Aryavysya, Caste No bar, 29 yrs, 178 cm, Software, 45 LPA, mild eye issue, Seeking simple Girl. Ph: 8555072557

✔ **Post-Graduate Electronics** Engineer, 30 years old, working in Hyderabad (Semiconductor Services Firm), seeks suitable Christian Bride, Tamil Parents (Father - Retd. Sr. Executive, Private sector, Mother - Consultant Physician), Contact: WhatsApp: 79972 79991, email Id: pcig6961@gmail.com

Wanted UK based Doctor / Engineer bride for a 27 year old Hindu Tamil Engineer working / settled in Cambridge UK. Parents Doctors. Contact: swadhaya@gmail.com

37YRS, B.TECH mgr govt Bank salary 1.5 LPM owning properties in Ch, Seeking alliance CNB. 9940507235

DIVORCEE

48YRS. TOP mgmt. Pvt. Sector, Chennai. Good Salary, Viswakarma, Divorcee, No issues. CNB. Suitable bride. Ct : 95661 97522 / 73388 89725

SMART, SUCCESSFUL 38, 171cm, progressive US–based professional at global MNC. Seeks educated, compatible S Indian bride. Call/WA 93456 34365

61–YEAR–OLD RETIRED Engineer, divorcee, living a quiet and disciplined life, believes lifes best chapters can still begin now. Values mental peace, mutual respect, and simple camaraderie. Seeking a girl (divorcee/widow, preferably without children) to share meaningful conversations, walks, and a calm, stress–free life. Genuine responses only.Ct: Whatsapp 88387 44120.

MUDALIAR 34, Pub.Sec Employee Wellsettled, Short Divorcee, No issues Suitable Elite Bride Ct:W 9830282090

CAST NO BAR:OBC/58Yr M.A,MSc,LL.B 50T PM:Shd know Little Telugu. Looking for Good Hearted Bride. 9866456009

✔ **Looking for** Hindu Veg. life partner in 40s for a man working in 50s Divorcee. no issues. Ct: 9840211389

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Feb 1998, 178cm, MD, DM Nephrology, Seeks Doctor Bride. Contact: 9500085244

HINDU SC / AD, MD Pathology, Age : 31yrs., Star : Ashwini, seeks Doctor MD / MS Bride. Ct: 866 755 5837

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

SUITABLE HINDU Malayalam Bride CNB for Coimbatore TN Settled I/C Groom (F) Vellalar Pillai (M) Nair 40/180 Chadhayam B.Tech MNC Bosch Projects, 30 LPA. CT: 99524 85996.

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NRI

SMART CHRISTIAN 27, 178cm, well–educated (double MS), EU–based professional. Affluent business family. Seeks compatible bride. Community/language no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

HANDSOME, HEIGHT 190cm, 42 yrs, PhD (BioChem), Scientist in San Diego. Naidhruva Kasyapa from Smartha Brahmin, Veg, Teetotaler girl. Venkata_raman@yahoo.com

PUNJABI

SEEKING ALLIANCE for Punjabi Boy, Chennai, 34 years, working as HR in UAE. Please Call : 98404 25490

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Boy 38 years Divorcee, MDS, Dental Surgeon, Own Clinic, 7 Lakh PM, well settled, Coimbatore, Seeks bride, Caste & Religion No bar. Ct: 9843865067 / 9790166987

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

CHRISTIAN 26/BE/172/12L PA Well Settled Family Seeks Educated Bride. Subsect No Bar. Contact : 8148004573

TAMIL CATHOLIC Bachelor 52 years, B.Sc / 25000 Seeks God Fearing Tamil Catholic Spinster. Ct: 9840319390 / E Mail: edwindinroze059@gmail.com

RC CHRISTIAN, 43yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT– 9500188067

CHRISTIAN NADAR 1st Marriage 54/ 174 MPhil GovtOficer 30L & 53/170 PhD Prof House@Chennai.Seek upto 45 FC/BC Educated Professional 9444032498

HINDU NADAR, – B.E – 29/180cm Data Engineer – Good Salary – Chennai – Seeking Bride Cell: 9600227299

SAIVA PILLAI (CNB), 29, Pooradam, BE, MS(USA), SWE, MNC seeks USA based bride. Ct: 9444951621.

✔ **SEEKING GOODLOOKING** bride for manager in PSB, age 38, Rohini, Mudhalyar, caste: no bar. Contact : 9445311859

AGAMUDAIYAR 42 180cm MSc IT Consultant seeks Bride from OBC shunmugavalli@gmail.com Mob – 9445612997

MUDALIAR 29 BE,MBA 178cm smart 32Lacs PA, well settled family seeks Bride, CNB Ct.8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU/OBC 38/179, B.Tech, Pvt. Service Sector 5.5Lpa. Seeks suitable Birde, Caste No Bar. Ct: 9944385814

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar,28yrs,CA, 2lakhs pm,well educated family Ph:9841329471 / 9380791999

31 YRS groom doing M.Ch Urology, Chennai, seeks vegetarian PG doctor / professional non medico bride Contact : 9080296807

TAMIL

Bride Groom Wanted for DOCTOR
Bride, 34 yrs, 5'7", divorcee, doctor (MBBS,MD,DM), from an elite business family, Hindu Nadar, based in Tirunelveli,
seeks a suitable groom from an affluent family (caste no bar)
Kindly contact 9994851637/ 9790445335

HINDU SC/AD, 40/163cm fair, B.Tech (CSE), SWP, Moolam, Dhansu, never married, Chennai, seeks Professionally qualified, never married groom below 43yrs from India / Abroad. Caste No Bar. Call / WA: 8754566571

HINDU SC/AD 25/150cm M.A (International Relations) preparing for Admn Exam seeks Groom Govt /Pvt Employed Groom. 9841697885 / 9841697884

TELUGU

Balija Naidu 28yrs/172cm, M.Sc (C.S) Visakam 3rd Padam, Thulam Rasi, Fair, Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom.Ct: 9445229864/044-42875069

TELUGU

NAIDU M. Arch wkg MNC 31/170 Rohini well settled seeks groom from any Telugu/any BC comm 7904100156

NAIDU: 25/V.FAIR, B.Arch, Doing Father Business, Chennai, Elite Family (100cr), seeks any Telegu Groom Business / Eng – 9962530015

DIVORCEE CHETTIAR (CNB) 27yrs / Beautiful, MBBS,MS, Doctor, Chennai, Elite family,Only daughter–seeks groom Doctor/Any PG Degree–8925019776

NAIDU 25/160 Fair Beautiful, MBBS, MS–doing, Ramachandra, Elite Family, 50 Cr CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

44 Yrs /165cm/SWE/Bengaluru. OC/ Caste no bar. seeks Engineer/Doctor/ Professional Groom. Ct: 9182734077

Affluent upper middle-class Balija Naidu family seeks a suitable alliance for their daughter, 31 years, 5 feet, wheatish, BE, MS, MBA, presently working in USA. Groom should be well-educated, professionally accomplished, and from a good family background. Ct: 9047010018 / 9787943250

URDU

AGE–35, BE Graduate Working, Divorce, Muslim Bride, Seeks A Groom in a Good Job. Ct: 9865130076

TAMIL

THONDAIMANDALA MUDALIYAR boy 41 B.B.A.,D.M.E Annamalai University, Chidambaram,10Acres land owned. Seeks Vegetarian Mudaliyar or Vegetarian girl.Divorcee no kids,good family background will consider.Ct. 8668154951

HINDU NADAR 39yr MA, M.Phil, Own Busines in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride in Nellai/ Tuticorin 8637660391

IIM MBA boy 30yrs, 165cm, 40L/PA chennai based. Intercaste parents. Seeking PG Doctor/IIM/CA fair and slim brides.Whatsapp horoscope and photo to +91 7448804564.

PROFESSOR - Govt. College, 45 / Divorcee, Caste, Religion - No Bar. Ct:94426 95558

VANNIAR GROOM 12.06.1982, B.E, M.B.A (Lon), Divorced, No issue. IT Chennai, 16.5 Lakhs/PA. Seeks Bride CNB (OC, BC, M.B.C Only) Contact: 9944928521 Vellore.

BRIDE WANTED SC (AD),30yrs, BE, MBA,Well Educated Family in Chennai Ph:6385293227

BRIDE WANTED 28yrs,civil service, Well Educated Family background, Caste no bar Ph:6385293227

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

MUDHALIYAR, CA,24L pa, Age–40, Never married, Kettai, Own House, 6 Acre land, Sub Caste ok. 7305460763

SEEKING EDUCATED Bride for: a 39y/ 171cm Hindu, Chartered Accountant – top Firm in Chennai.WA: 8220636792

NAIDU, PHD, Age –42, Never married, Pooradam, 12L / pa, Own House, Sub Caste ok. Ct: 8754756329

MUDALIYAR, KETTAI 40/165, M. Tech.,Ph.D., HOD, Pvt. Engg College, Pondy Seeks Bride 31 to 37yrs 9442557578

EZHAVA Boy 28/174cm Midhunam, Coimbatore Based, BE Mech. Eng, Working in Chennai. Seeks suitable Girl from good family, no demands. 9443136400, 9443222000.

SUITABLE GIRL for a Sofware Developer, born 1997 in USA, 175cm, Wheatish complexion/ Athletic/ Handsome Tamil Mudaliar. Caste no bar. Ct: 6379372255/ Mail: rs123home@gmail.com

Vanniar 1990 Employed US company work from home in chennai seeks employed hindu bride.9884904306

KONGU VELLALA gounder, 28, USA, MS, IAS Family, looking for a bride in same caste and well educated family. 8137003550

HIGHLY QUALIFIED Brahmin Iyer, in top management role, 62 years, Chennai based, Never Married, seeks alliance from Brahmin girls. Contact with details by email sakrishjun1929@gmail.com

TAMIL

MUDALIAR DIVORCEE,PHD,PROFESSOR Pvt Eng.Collage, age 53, Magaram Seeks educated unmarried/ widow/ Divor cee without child from FC/ OBC (40–4 5yrs) No Brokers Contact 9150799959

VANIYA CHETTIYAR, 28, MS, Engineer, 45 lakhs, Sweden, searching for same caste and any subcaste from anywhere in Tamilnadu. 8137001255

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 31 yrs,BE, MS (sweden), height 175cm, SWE in sweden,4 lakhs/m from same caste. Contact 9380791999,9611783576, 9841329471

MUDALIYAR 35 Yrs,170 cm B.Tech M.sc, 80 LPA Permanent Job Germany. Revathi,Meenam. 9442135216, 8015435216

DIVORCEE HINDU. 35yrs No issues, M.Tech, well settled Software Engineer, seeking bride with no issues. Caste no bar. 9841862535, 9941962421

28 YRS Hindu, Yadhava well settled family. M.L., Legal Adviser to Maran brothers. Salary One lakh/ pm. seeking bride caste no bar 9841062535

MALE30 GOVT Job Own House&land.No Bro &Sis Seeks Lovable Bride Noexpectations CNB Salem wtsapp 8300797118

HINDU SC PR Aswini 38/178 Central Govt Job 86000 Per Month Well Settled Seeks Suitable Girl. 90044 06307, 90428 85492.

GAVARA NAIDU 29/165, M.E., Design Engr in reputed MNC, own business & rental income, affluent family, Star:Thiruvonam, Rasi: Magaram. Seeking Suitable Alliance.CNB: 9841097110

EEZHAVA / Vanniyar, 37yrs, 180cm, BBA, Thiruvathira, 80K, Chennai. Seeking Bride cast no bar, Tamil / Malayalam Ct: 9840142978 / 9043512184

HINDU VERY Rich, only son 1980 B.A,LLB., High Court seeks Dr, Employed Bride. CNB, Divorcee Welcome. Ct: 94453 89962

MUDALIAR 28/178, Handsome, MBBS MS, Apollo, 3000000 PA, Elite Family, 70. Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

HINDU SC AD 34 yrs MA BED(Eng) State Govt group 2 level Officer 80000 month seek Working Bride 9787702818

MBA (SPAIN) Fair Boy 30/185 Elite, Educated Family. Seeks Fair Beautiful Girl, Caste No bar 9840970170

IYER ASHTASAHS Kasyb divorcee, Barani 40/180, double Masters (India, US) Ph.D (thesis, Germany) Employed Germany seeks qualified unmarried, divorcee short lived marriage No issues bride, employed Europe or Indian willing to relocate Germany. 9444551216/ 8122892822

TAMIL

BHARDWAJ POORATATHI Iyer unmarried 43/170cm B.Com Dip in Hotel management 6 lac PA, own flat, seek any Brahmin girl, Divorcee no bar, preferably working. Ct: 98402–15610

Vadakalai Iyengar Boy, Punarpoosam 153 cm 6 Inch, Bharatwaja Gothram, 1979, never married, MNC, Chennai, M.S. IT, 32Lac PA seeks never Married Preferably Non Working Brides.contact with BPH Whats App 7299704899.

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

Pillai 36/177 BE, MBA, SWE MNC, 21LPA, Chennai, seeks suitable Bride, not horoscope Any BC ok.9500147451

BE IIT 188 cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91. Wkg in Hyderabad Very high package seeks Bride Telugu, Tamil Allied Castes also Cont: 7382620365

HINDU NADAR, 43/171, B.Tech, MS, Working in Canada, First Marriage, willing to relocate to US,London. Seeks Bride, Caste No Bar. 8148166505.

DOCTOR PARENTS, Hindu Nadar, 25 yrs, M.S Gen. Surgeon seeks MBBS Bride. Ct: 94437 51221

TELUGU

REDDY, SWATHI, 30/183 BE, MS London, Business, divorced seeks educated, good family background girl. Naidu's also welcome. Ct: 9710933159

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NAIDU 27/188 Handsome, MBBS MD, Kauvery Hospital, 2600000 PA, Elite, 80 Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

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Hutti mines dazzles as gold prices soar in the global market

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Soaring price of gold in the global market alone has helped Hutti Gold Mines – the only functional gold mine in the country – earn a whopping ₹633.34 crore more in 2025-26, when the average gold selling price increased by 34.11%. The year also coincided with the highest average recovery grade with 2.61 grams of gold recovered per tonne of ore mined in the last five years.

The average selling price of gold for The Hutti Gold Mines Company Ltd. – the State PSU at Hutti in Raichur district – during 2025-26, was ₹11,603 per gm, an increase by ₹3,958 per gm over 2024-2025 when the average selling price was ₹7,645 per gm. Owing to geopolitical factors, the gold price in India has been fluctuating, and the retail gold price fluctuated between ₹12,000 and ₹15,000 per gm.

Hutti's quest for gold

The evidence of gold mining activity is traced to pre-Ashokan times. Ancient gold mining is established by carbon dating of wooden logs found in the old underground workings at Hutti.

1880-1920 Modern gold mining undertaken by John Taylor & Sons for Hyderabad (Deccan) Company owned by the Nizam of Hyderabad

1920 Mines closed due to paucity of materials, funds and due to World War I

1938: Exploration by geological and geo-physical surveys, diamond drilling and dewatering of village reef mine led to rediscovery of Zone-1 and Oakley's Reefs

1947: Hyderabad Gold Mines Company Ltd. was incorporated and mining was again entrusted to John Taylor and Sons by the Nizams

1956: With the formation of Mysore State, it was renamed as The Hutti Gold Mines Company Ltd.

How it fared

Particulars	Ore milled (in tonnes)	Fine gold production (kg)	Average recovery grade (G/T)	Sales (in kg)	Total income (in ₹ crore)	Profit after tax (in ₹ crore)
2025-26*	6,49,690	1,691.57	2.61	1,521.36	1,910.6239	844.7168
2024-25	6,83,701	1,606.30	2.35	1,600.25	1,342.9023	436.0714
2023–24	7,18,281	1,553.05	2.16	1,528.00	1,052.4748	239.4547
2022–23	6,05,976	1,411.42	2.33	1,412.29	828.7354	197.8351
2021–22	4,78,514	1,236.81	2.58	1,200.45	626.0188	111.1631

*Data for 2025-26 is provisional, while the figures from 2021-22 to 2024–25 reflect audited results

How much it produced
The company produced 1,691.57 kg of gold, and earned a revenue of ₹1,910.62 crore by selling 1,521.36 kg of gold, data shared by the company shows. The profit after tax was ₹844.71 crore.

Hutti's gold production meets less than 1% of India's annual demand for gold that is estimated to be over 700 tonnes. The company also produced 145.76 kg of silver as a byproduct of gold ore beneficiation process, and sold 131.59 kg at an average selling price of ₹1,58,750 per kg during the year.

The spurt in the gold price has brought a windfall to the company as it saw its revenue increase by 42.23% and net profit nearly double over the previous year. The total revenue increased from ₹1,342.90 crore in 2024-2025 to ₹1,910.62 crore in 2025-2026. It also reported a 93.71% increase in net profit from ₹436.07 crore in 2024-2025 to ₹844.71 crore 2025-2026.

The Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited at Hutti in Raichur district.

Not retail trading cost
The selling cost of 'Gold Dore Bars' (that contains impurities) to the refiners by the HGML is a weekly average Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) rate, which is different from the retail trading cost of gold, a company official explained.

The increase in gold price has cushioned the company against market inflation of various materials, spares, consumables, power and labour that has increased the cost of the operation, sources said.

"The mining operations will be viable only if a minimum of 1.3 gm of gold is recovered from a tonne of ore since the overall cost of processing a tonne of ore is about ₹12,000. The increase in yield has also significantly contributed towards increase in the net gold production and also on the cost of production for the company," said an official.

The rising profit for the company is also connected to better recovery grade of ore in 2025-26, which was 2.60 gm per tonne, whereas the recovery grade of ore in 2024-25 was 2.35 gm per tonne. The average yield ranged from 2.30 gm per tonne to 2.60 gm per tonne in the last 10 years, with lowest yield of 2.16 gm per tonne coming in 2023-24 and the highest yield of 2.88 gm per tonne recorded in 2017-18.

Sources said that the grade of ore supplied to the mill varied because the grade is not uniform across all stoping blocks.

Expansion of operations

The HGML is also expanding mining operations beyond Hutti.

It is awaiting statutory clearances to take up brown field project at Wondalli, about 10 km from Hutti.

The company is also exploring to enhance production at its satellite gold mines at Uti and Hira-Buddinni shortly by investing on additional infrastructure.

How much remains

Since the inception of modern mining at Hutti over a century ago, about 102 tonnes of gold has been mined and the remaining gold reserves are estimated to be about 71 tonnes. According to an estimate, sufficient ore is available in and around Hutti to continue mining operations for at least 25 years. Hutti is one of the deepest mines with present mining depth at over 2,500 feet.

After a major expansion project, the ore production capacity has been enhanced to 3,000 tonnes a day or about 9 lakh tonnes annually. Interestingly, in 1971, the company had nearly tripled the ore processing capacity from 310 tonnes per day to 910 tonnes per day, which is now at 3,000 tonnes daily.

SIR: Migrant and marginalised populations hardest to map

The core problems include mismatches in voter records, poor phone network connectivity and migration, say BLOs

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Despite Karnataka reporting 87.49% completion in voter mapping, including progeny mapping, as of May 23 ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Booth Level Officers (BLOs) say the exercise is still far from complete on the ground. Migrant and marginalised populations are proving the hardest to map due to mismatched records, mobility and field constraints, they say.

The core problems, BLOs point out, include mismatches in voter records, poor phone network connectivity and migration.

In many cases, names appear differently across records, with variations in spelling, initials and order, making it difficult to confirm whether entries refer to the same person.

Same person, different spelling
In many cases, names appear differently across records, with variations in spelling, initials and order, making it difficult to confirm whether entries refer to the same person. This is also leading to repeated visits and incomplete mapping. "Across many communities, there is a single name. In other cases, some people have initials in one document while the same initials are expanded in another. The system is not able to handle these variations," a BLO in Bengaluru said.

A BLO, an Anganwadi worker in the city, showed several cases where voters holding EPIC cards issued years ago were still not traceable in updated 2025 rolls, with the system returning "record not found" despite correct details such as constituency and part number. Another common concern raised by BLOs is that many people are unable to recall where they were enrolled in 2002.

While Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbu Kumar had recently said BLOs would help trace such voters, officers said the electoral rolls are structured hierarchically - State, district, Assembly constituency, polling station and part number - and they try to narrow matches using age, family names and local identifiers. However, inconsistent spellings and missing details in the software often produce multiple possible matches, leading to confusion and incomplete mapping.

"The SIR guidelines require documentation based on age groups. This has become difficult in rural areas, especially where older generations themselves do not have complete records," a BLO added.

Migration challenges
Migration has further complicated the exercise. In districts like Yadgir and Raichur, BLOs said many families have members working in cities such as Bengaluru and Hyderabad, while others move seasonally for agricultural work like sugarcane cutting in Maharashtra. Houses in such cases are often locked, leaving verification incomplete even after multiple visits.

In Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru, BLOs said they are facing additional challenges beyond mapping. A single polling booth often covers large, difficult terrain with steep slopes and interior roads that are not motorable. The area also has many workers who migrate every few months, while estate owners themselves are based in Bengaluru and other cities.

Adding to the challenge is poor network connectivity and issues with mobile phones allotted for the exercise. BLOs from Bengaluru, Yadgir, Raichur, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru told *The Hindu* that network problems persist not only in interior areas but also in parts of cities. They said data often cannot be captured in one attempt.

Age factor
Several BLOs and teachers involved in the exercise are above 50 years of age and said they are also managing health issues while doing physically demanding fieldwork. They added that training was not adequate, a concern they said they have raised multiple times.

While BLOs acknowledge migration and lack of documents are causing many marginalised voters to be left out of the exercise, official data shows mapping has reached 96.02% in Kodagu and 92.02% in Yadgir.

Brainstorming meeting today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress will hold a brainstorming meeting on Sunday to deliberate on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), after which the State government is expected to outline its formal position on the exercise.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the party is also likely to write to the Election Commission of India flagging "logical discrepancies" in the SIR process. If the response is not satisfactory, the party is considering legal options, including approaching the apex court.

Congress has called its legislators, former legislators, defeated candidates and senior leaders for the meeting, where the SIR exercise will be discussed in detail. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala are expected to participate, sources said.

Speaking on the discussions held so far, a senior leader said the Cabinet had examined SIR and possible legal options. "The Election Commission has immunity. We discussed whether we can approach the Supreme Court and request it to intervene in finalising the voters' list. Several aspects of SIR were discussed," he said.

Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team to celebrate 30th anniversary on May 26

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The prestigious Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team of the Indian Air Force will celebrate its 30th anniversary on May 26 in Bidar, marking three decades of air display and precision aerobatics in India and abroad.

Popularly known as the "Ambassadors of the Indian Air Force", the nine-aircraft formation aerobatic team has enthralled millions with its synchronised low-level manoeuvres and close formation flying displays.

The Surya Kiran team was formed on May 27, 1996, at Air Force Station Bidar and initially operated the Kiran Mk-II aircraft. The team made its public debut at Coimbatore in September 1996, with an air display that marked the beginning of its journey in precision aerobatics.

The Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team performs manoeuvres during a full-dress rehearsal ahead of the team's 30th anniversary commemoration, in Bengaluru.

Over the last 30 years, the team has conducted more than 800 air displays across India and in countries including China, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. Since 2015, the team has been operating the Hawk Mk-132 aircraft in its signature red-and-white colour scheme and nine-aircraft formation. The anniversary celebrations to be held at Air Force Station Bidar will pay tribute to the spirit of the Indian Air Force and the contribution of all members of the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team in making it one of the finest aerobatic teams in the world, said a press release.

'It was police call to deny permission to CJP event'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Saturday said that the police had taken an independent call on denying permission for the proposed event of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), the satirical digital outfit, after assessing the law and order situation.

Responding to questions by reporters on why the police had denied permission for the CJP convention that was scheduled to be held on Sunday, he said, "The police examine the purpose for which such an event is being organised, who all are involved, and related aspects. Based on that assessment, the police decide whether to grant permission or not. If they have denied permission, there must be some reason."

'Janapada varsity staff not paid for 11 months'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday accused the Congress government in Karnataka of pushing the State into a financial crisis, alleging that employees of the Karnataka Janapada University had not been paid salaries for the past 11 months.

In a statement, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok said the situation reflected the "administrative failure" of the State government and alleged that excessive expenditure on the government's guarantee schemes had affected funding for education, development works and public institutions.

R. Ashok

Mr. Ashok claimed that several government departments and development projects were facing financial strain due to shortage of funds, and alleged that universities were now struggling to pay salaries to employees.

"The Congress government is spending crores of rupees on advertisements for guarantee schemes, but does not have money to pay salaries to employees," the statement said.

He alleged that the State's financial priorities had adversely affected public institutions and the future of employees working in them.

E.Mail - serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

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5. Other Details :- As mentioned in DTCN

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur	ROAD TENDER ONLINE RWCSBP-05/2026-27	28.05.2026 11.00 A.M.	16.06.2026 05.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur

25001/224/2627

OIPR-25001/25091/1/26-27/0008

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client intends to purchase the property described in the Schedule hereunder from its lawful owners Sri. **T THIPPESH** and his wife **Smt. VEENA S**, both are residing at No.06, 5th 'A' Cross, 4th Main, KHB Colony, 1st Stage, Basaveshwarnagar, Bengaluru – 560079, who are the owners of Schedule Property.

Any person or persons other than the Vendor having any claim or interest in or to the Schedule Property, or any part thereof in any manner is/are required to forward their claim on or to the property to the undersigned at their office along with the relevant documents thereof, within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this notice in this newspaper. In the absence of any claims within the above said period, it shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made it shall be deemed to have been waived and our client will proceed with the transaction without any further reference in this regard.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential property bearing **Property No.77** and **New E.PID No. 3731745754**, situated at **5th Main Road, Kamakshipalya, Bengaluru,** BBMP Ward No.101 of Kamakshipalya, measuring East to West : 60 ft and North to South : 30 ft together with the house comprising of ground and first floors, admeasuring **1200 sq ft** and bound as follows:

East : Road,
West : Formerly Channappa's Property & Road, presently others Property,
North : Formerly Road, presently others Property,
South : Channappa's Property.

HJK LAW PARTNERS
Advocates
No.1038, 1st Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road
Rajajinagar 4th Block, Bangalore-560010
L: 080 23151715;
M : 9845364814 / 8310960526
Email: rekha@hjklawpartners.com
Place : Bengaluru, Dated : 23.05.2026

INBRIEF

A.P. to implement healthcare project from August 15

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday launched the ambitious healthcare and governance roadmap for the State, announcing that the government would implement the 'Sanjeevani' healthcare project by August 15 to provide every citizen access to an "AI Doctor" for medical consultation from home. Mr. Naidu said technology-driven public welfare would not only strengthen but also redefine governance in the future.

Three dead, six injured in two road accidents in A.P. districts

Two separate road accidents in Anakapalli and Visakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh claimed three lives and left six others injured on Saturday. Two persons were killed and six others sustained injuries after the four-wheeler in which they were travelling rammed into a lorry parked on NH-16 in Anakapalli district. In another incident, a 26-year-old man died after his two-wheeler came under the wheels of an APSRTC bus while he was trying to overtake it.

Tesla to set up sales and service centre in Hyderabad

Electric vehicle (EV) giant Tesla has expressed interest to establish a sales and service centre in Hyderabad. At a meeting held with Telangana's IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu on Friday, the company's India representatives evinced interest to roll out the sales here.

The Minister further congratulated Tesla's India general manager Sharad Agarwal, and lead Public Policy & Business Development director Rajat for selecting the city.

Row over Kerala poll officer's appointment to CM's office

CPI(M) and the BJP Kerala unit question the move, with the left party alleging it casts doubt on the credibility of the Assembly polls; Chennithala defends appointment as the State govt.'s prerogative

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A political controversy has erupted over the appointment of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO - Kerala) Rathan U. Kelkar as Secretary to Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan. Both the Opposition Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have questioned the motives behind the decision.

Rathan U. Kelkar (left) with Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at Lok Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram. FILE PHOTO

The CPI(M) State secretariat has alleged that the appointment puts a question mark over the credibility of the Assembly election. The government decision is unprecedented and endorses the Left Democratic Front's (LDF) charge that the Election Commission of India (EC) had adopted measures favouring the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), the CPI(M) said. The party also drew parallels with the appointment of Manoj Kumar Agarwal, who oversaw the West Bengal Assembly election as CEO, as Chief Secretary to the new BJP government.

The CPI(M) and the BJP in Kerala also drew attention to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remark: 'The bigger the theft, the bigger the reward', made over Mr. Agarwal's appointment. "So Rahul ji, what happened in Keralam, is it still 'reward for theft' or suddenly the beauty of democracy?", BJP leader K. Surendran posted on social media on Saturday.

It is understood that Mr. Kelkar was contacted on Friday and asked to join the new Chief Minister's team. Formal orders were issued on Saturday transferring Mr. Kelkar as Secretary to the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala defended the move, calling it the prerogative of the State government. He is a good officer. There is nothing unnatural in the appointment, he said.

Rift in AMMA over actor's allegations

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The ongoing rift within the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) got murkier on Saturday with actor Ansiba Hassan accusing actor Tiny Tom and a section of the members of the forum of subjecting her to character assassination and making communal remarks targeting her. She cited the alleged harassment as the reason behind her resignation from the organisation on February 21. Ms. Hassan was the joint secretary of AMMA led by actor Shwetha Menon, who was elected as its first female president in August 2025.

Speaking to media, the *Drishyam* actor alleged that Mr. Tom had accused her of attempting religious conversion, besides spreading rumours about her personal life. She said she was informed of the alleged comments by another member of the organisation. She, however, said she did not wish to pursue legal action over the allegations.

She also accused the AMMA leadership of not supporting her when a woman executive committee member filed an alleged false police complaint against her.

Mr. Tom, meanwhile, rejected Ms. Hassan's allegations. Responding to media in Kochi, he said the accusations against him were based on mere hearsay. "I am a person who works sincerely and speaks openly," he told the media.

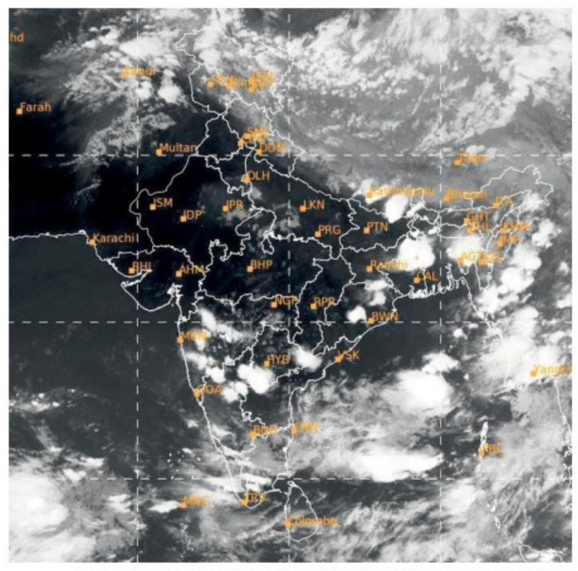
He exuded confidence that AMMA's executive committee would take an appropriate decision on the matter.

Soon after the allegations erupted, actor Priyanka came out in support of Mr. Tom. She said in Kochi that Ms. Hassan should have discussed her complaints within AMMA.

Ms. Menon, meanwhile, told the media in Kochi that she received a complaint from Ms. Hassan mentioning the names of Mr. Tom and Lakshmipriya, a vice president of AMMA, on Saturday afternoon after the issue became a topic of discussion.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.2	27.9	Kozhikode	42	33.5	25.9
Ahmedabad	—	42.3	29.2	Kurnool	—	39.6	27.8
Aizawl	—	31.6	24.6	Lucknow	—	43.1	27.9
Allahabad	—	46.0	26.8	Madurai	—	39.0	26.1
Bengaluru	—	29.2	22.5	Mangaluru	5	30.1	25.1
Bhopal	—	41.6	29.0	Mumbai	—	35.1	29.7
Bhubaneswar	—	39.3	29.4	Mysuru	—	31.0	21.2
Chandigarh	—	40.6	26.0	New Delhi	—	41.1	28.4
Chennai	—	32.4	30.4	Patna	—	41.6	28.2
Coimbatore	—	33.6	23.8	Port Blair	17	31.3	25.2
Dehradun	—	38.3	23.8	Puducherry	—	31.8	29.0
Gangtok	20	21.5	17.2	Pune	16.2	34.8	24.6
Goa	2	34.8	27.8	Raipur	—	44.3	28.2
Guwahati	5	31.5	25.3	Ranchi	—	39.2	26.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	23.0	Shillong	2	24.4	17.6
Hyderabad	—	40.6	29.5	Shimla	0.1	31.0	20.0
Imphal	30	30.0	22.3	Srinagar	2	23.9	12.7
Jaipur	—	42.6	30.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.7	25.2
Kochi	—	31.4	26.2	Tiruchi	—	37.1	28.0
Kohima	—	26.0	17.0	Vijayawada	—	42.6	31.0
Kolkata	—	37.4	29.8	Visakhapatnam	—	35.2	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.15	..88	45	 48	...111	
Bengaluru	...9	..44	46	..... —	...112	
Chennai	...6	..13	30	 42	73	
Delhi	.39	..64	28	... 195	...268	
Hyderabad	.22	..16	28	 70	86	
Kolkata	...9	..22	13	 74	98	
Lucknow	...7	..45	46	... 196	...128	
Mumbai	...8	124	23	 21	30	
Pune	..—	..34	97	 20	42	
Visakhapatnam	.25	..65	18	 82	...137	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Charkhi Dadri, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 338 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Brahmotsavam begins at Govindaraja Swamy temple

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

The annual Brahmotsavam at the TTD's Sri Govindaraja Swamy Temple commenced on a colourful note on Saturday.

The 'Dhwajarohanam' ritual was performed in the morning, during which priests hoisted the sacred 'Dhwaja Patam' atop the temple flag post amid Vedic chants and the playing of traditional musical instruments.

The ceremony was held between 7.35 a.m. and 8.49 a.m., considered an auspicious period according to the Hindu almanac. Earlier, the yellow flag bearing the imprint of Garuda, the celestial carrier of Govindaraja Swamy, was taken in a procession along the four mada streets surrounding the temple.

According to temple mythology, the flag-hoisting ceremony symbolically invites demi-gods and celestial beings to witness the nine-day annual festival.

'Snapana Tirumanjanam' (celestial bath) was performed to the processional deities in the afternoon using milk, curd, honey, coconut water, turmeric and sandal paste. In the evening, 'Unjal Seva' was conducted, during which the deities were placed on a swing and gently rocked to and fro.

Later, the deities were taken in a procession on the 'Pedda Sesha Vahanam', representing the seven-hooded serpent, through the temple streets.

The TTD made elaborate arrangements for the festival, including serial lighting, floral decorations and rangoli patterns along the temple streets.

Scorching summer

Taking cover: Exhausted by the heat, a mango vendor rests under an umbrella at Poorna Market in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on Saturday. K.R. DEEPAK

Kerala Home Minister unveils policing reforms, anti-drug drive

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala has announced a slew of major reforms across Kerala's 484 police stations. The changes were unveiled following a high-level meeting attended by senior police officers of the rank of Superintendent of Police and above at the police headquarters here on Saturday.

Aiming to transform police stations into citizen-friendly public service centres, the Minister said every person visiting a police station would be greeted with 'Good morning' or 'Namaste'. Steps would also be taken to ensure cleanliness in all police stations, while complaints from the public would be heard with sensitivity and impartiality. The police training curriculum will also be revamped to bring about significant changes in policing practices.

Committee formed

Mr. Chennithala said the decision to hand over station responsibilities from Sub-inspectors (SIs) to Circle Inspectors (CIs) had adversely affected policing. "A five-member committee headed by the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Headquarters has been constituted to study the issue", he said. Further action would be taken based on the committee's recommendations.

Vehicles lying abandoned for years on the premises of police stations will be removed under the provisions of the Police Act, the Minister said. He also announced 'Operation Toofan - The Narco Hunt,' a major anti-drug drive by the Kerala Police scheduled to be launched on June 1, It is aimed at eradicating drug networks and curbing the exploitation of students by narcotics rackets. As part of the operation, organised drug networks functioning covertly across the State will be targeted.

Mr. Chennithala also said stringent action would be initiated against perpetrators of crimes against women and children.

154 arrested, drugs worth ₹3.69 crore seized in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad Police arrested 154 persons and registered 61 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act during a major anti-drug crackdown conducted between April 1 and May 22, in Telangana.

Drugs worth an estimated ₹3.69 crore were seized during the enforcement drive carried out jointly by Cyberabad Enforcement teams and police units.

Data shared by the police revealed that ganja accounted for the highest number of cases during the crackdown, with 42 cases registered, 559.618 kg ganja worth ₹2.79 crore seized and 108 persons arrested. In addition, two cases involving ganja chocolates led to the seizure of 28.225 kg of the substance and the arrest of four persons. Five hashish oil cases resulted in the seizure of 2.02 litres valued at ₹25.25 lakh, with 12 accused apprehended. In two methamphetamine cases, police seized 317.6 gm worth ₹63.52 lakh and arrested six persons. Another 10 consumer-related cases involved the seizure of 245 gm of dry ganja and 1.8 gm of MDMA, leading to the arrest of 24 persons.

Police appealed to citizens to cooperate with authorities.

16 people die of heatstroke in 7 Telangana districts

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A total of 16 people have died due to heatstroke in Telangana as severe heatwave conditions continue to grip the State, prompting the government to issue a Statewide alert and announce ₹4 lakh *ex gratia* for the families of the deceased.

The deaths were reported from seven districts, with Jayashankar Bhupalpally accounting for four fatalities. Warangal Urban, Karimnagar, and Nizamabad reported three deaths each, while Jogulamba Gadwal, Rangareddy, and Suryapet recorded one death each.

Jana Nayagan leak case: Madras High Court denies bail to six accused

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Friday (May 22, 2026) refused to grant bail to six individuals who had watched and shared Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay starrer *Jana Nayagan* movie, after it got leaked online even before the grant of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certificate.

The prosecution opposed the grant of bail on the ground that it was a serious offence.

Justice R. Sakthivel dismissed all the bail petitions after the prosecution vehemently opposed the grant of bail on the ground that it was a serious offence of a movie having been shared widely and viewed illegally by lakhs of people even before its official release and the issuance of CBFC certificate.

The court was told the cyber crime wing had registered a First Information Report (FIR) against 21 individuals on the basis of a complaint lodged by R. Udayakumar who was serving as production controller at KVN Productions which had produced the movie by spending crores of rupees.

The investigation conducted by the police so far had revealed that a freelance editor S. Prashanth (32) of Jaffarkhanpet in Chennai had been given access to an edit suite where he was editing actor Soori starrer *Mandaadi*. He had misused the access to steal *Jana Nayagan* footages in his hard drive.

After stealing the footage, he had watched the movie along with his brothers S. Selvam (second accused) who was serving as a driver in a popular textile showroom and S. Rajini (fourth accused) who was a lawyer. Thereafter, the second accused had shared the movie with his colleague who had been arrayed as the third accused.

"The third accused D. Uma Shankar, serving as purchase manager in the textile showroom, remains absconding till date despite his anticipatory bail having been dismissed by the High Court. His arrest may lead to the unearthing of new details and hence no other accused must be granted bail till then," the government counsel argued.

He also told the court the movie was shared by one individual to another through a video-sharing app.

From Page One

Petrol and diesel prices hiked for third time

With the latest ₹1 per kg hike, CNG in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad and Noida is now priced at ₹89.70 per kg, and in Meerut it costs ₹89.58 per kg.

In Haryana's Rewari and Gurugram, the revised CNG prices are ₹85.70 per kg and ₹86.12 per kg, respectively.

Indraprastha Gas Limited, North India's largest city gas distributor, said in a social media post that the revision in CNG retail prices had been undertaken "only to marginally offset the impact of increase in input gas cost along with steep appreciation of the U.S. dollar."

'Delhi plays a key role in U.S. Indo-Pacific policy'

The two leaders are expected to meet in June when they travel to Evian in France for the G-7 summit, where India is one of the countries invited to an outreach summit.

"Secretary Rubio briefed PM Modi on the sustained progress in bilateral cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including defence, strategic technologies, trade and investment, energy security, connectivity, education and people-to-people ties," a statement by the Press Information Bureau said.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott added that Mr. Rubio, U.S.'s top diplomat, had extended an invitation on behalf of Mr. Trump to the Prime Minister to visit the White House and had discussed the conflict with Iran.

"The Secretary emphasised that the U.S. will not let Iran hold the global energy market hostage and affirmed that U.S. energy products have the potential to diversify India's energy supply," he said.

Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting

The PIB statement said Mr. Modi had stated India's "consistent support for peace efforts" and "reiterated the call for peaceful resolution of the conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy".

This is the third time the Quad Foreign Ministers will meet since Mr. Trump returned to power, as they met in January and July 2025.

However, they have not so far been able to schedule a date for the Quad Summit, due to be held in India for the past two years, partly due to the strain in ties between both countries over American tariffs, sanctions, and visa restrictions, as well as Washington's claims of having mediated the India-Pakistan ceasefire in 2025, which New Delhi has denied.

The Quad FMM in India was important "as a tangible sign of what an important role India plays for the United States and [its] posture and approach to the Indo-Pacific", Mr. Rubio said, speaking at an event at the U.S. Embassy's premises to inaugurate a new 'Support Annexe Building'.

The Support Annexe building will contain several consular and visa section offices, Mr. Rubio said, announcing that the U.S. would shortly begin a priority visa service for Indians.

Big, poor States to get higher funds under govt.'s new rural jobs scheme

The new law, VB-G RAM G, replacing the 20-year-old MGNREGA, is set to come into effect from July 1; draft rules open for feedback till June 21; part of allocation from second year of Act's implementation to be based on 'performance criteria'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The new guarantee
The draft rules spell out the 'objective parameters' for the new law, which is set to come into effect from July 1
Allocation to States will now be determined by fixed "normative" criteria, a shift away from MGNREGA's demand-based approach
Unlike MGNREGA's 100% Centre-funded wage system, VB-G RAM G introduces shared wage responsibility between the Centre and the States
State funding will be based on the 16th Finance Commission indicators
A National Level Steering Committee and Central Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Council will guide allocations, monitoring, and implementation

Larger, poorer States are set to get higher funding under the Centre's new rural jobs scheme, with draft rules for the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB-G RAM G) proposing to use the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula to determine Central allocations. From next year, an unknown percentage of funding will also be allocated on the basis of how well States have implemented the scheme.

These are among the proposals laid out in a gamut of draft rules notified over the last two days for the VB-G RAM G law, which is set to come into effect from July 1, replacing the 20-year-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Apart from the allocation formula, the rules address provisions for grievance redressal mechanisms, institutional and administrative frameworks, and transitional provisions to govern the switchover from the UPA-era MGNREGA Act.

One of the key features of the VB-G RAM G legislation passed by Parliament was that it shifts away from MGNREGA's demand-based approach, which was meant to stretch the scheme's budget to match demand on the ground.

Further, while the Centre footed 100% of the wage bill under MGNREGA, the VB-G RAM G has divided this expenditure between Centre and States at 60:40 ratio for most States.

Objections and suggestions to the draft rules from stakeholders, experts, and the general public are open till June 21.

'Objective parameters'

Spelling out the "objective parameters" for normative allocation to States under the new law, the Centre said that each fiscal year's allocation would be based on the "objective parameters used for horizontal devolution among States as recommended by the 16th Finance Commission".

This devolution formula is based on different metrics, including the 2011 Census population, demographic performance, forests, area, per capita Gross State Domestic Product Distance, and contribution to Gross Domestic Product. The maximum weightage is given to the GSDP Distance (42.5%), which measures how far a State's per capita GSDP falls short of the wealthiest States, effectively prioritising poorer States. The next highest weightage is given to population (17.5%), benefiting larger States, while all other metrics carry a 10% weightage each.

However, the draft rules added that a part of the normative allocation from the second year of the Act's implementation will be based on "performance criteria".

This includes the "timely payment of wages", "compliance with social audit requirements", "percentage of completion of works", and "any other performance-related indicators" that the Centre chooses to notify.

Army officer's selfie puts spotlight on 'accident' in Ladakh

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A viral selfie with Army officers, including pilots, next to a crashed chopper on Saturday put a spotlight on an "accident" that took place on May 20 in Ladakh.

Officials said an Indian Army Cheetah light helicopter "met with an accident on May 20 in the Ladakh sector".

Meanwhile, a Court of Inquiry (CoI) has been ordered into the incident "to ascertain the cause of the accident".

"The two pilots and Division Commander Major General Sachin Mehta suffered injuries in the accident but are safe and stable," officials said.

The incident came to light only after a selfie emerged on social media.

The crash site was close to the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh region bordering China.

Manipur CM pledges NIA probe into abduction of Naga men

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh at a meeting with a delegation of the United Naga Council at the Secretariat in Imphal on Saturday. ANI

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Saturday promised a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the alleged abduction of six Naga men by Kuki extremists, as the hostage crisis continued to keep the State on edge.

On the other hand, Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body of Manipur's Kuki community, extended its shutdown since May 13 by another 48 hours to exert pressure on the government to facilitate the release of 14 Kuki people, including three minor students, allegedly held captive by Nagas. It said the decision was taken in the larger interest of safeguarding the rights, dignity, and future of the Kuki-Zo community.

The organisation also sought efforts from the authorities to secure the release of the Kuki villages from their captors.

Along with Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho and Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam, the Chief Minister met a six-member delegation of the United Naga Council (UNC) in Imphal to discuss the prevailing situation in the affected hill districts.

The UNC team, led by its president Ng. Lorho, urged the government to intensify efforts to trace six abducted Naga villagers from Konsakhul village in Kangpokpi district.

The Chief Minister responded by assuring the team that the abduction case would be handed over to the NIA, just as the killing of three church leaders in Kangpokpi district on May 13 was.

The killings of the church leaders led to Kukis and Nagas holding more than 40 people from each other's communities as hostages. 28 of them – 14 from each community – were released two days later in a hostage-for-hostage exchange facilitated by the security forces.

The Chief Minister also said search-and-rescue operations have been under way since May 14 to trace the missing villagers. He appealed to both the UNC and Kuki community leaders to assist in securing the release of the captives.

NCC cadets evacuated

Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force evacuated 132 National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets from Imphal. These cadets reached the Manipur capital by road for a regional flying camp from May 11 to May 20, but could not return due to highway blockades.

"The NCC North Eastern Region Directorate planned the evacuation of the cadets in consultation with the Headquarters Director General NCC and in coordination with the Headquarters Eastern Air Command," an NCC official said. Three AN-32 aircraft were used to evacuate 72 cadets to Guwahati and 60 to Jorhat, he said.

J&K Forest Minister boycotts own department's programme

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Minister Javed Ahmed Rana boycotted a function of the forest department which comes under him as a mark of protest against recent demolition of houses of nomadic communities – Gujjars and Bakarwals – in Jammu on May 19, 2026.

Meanwhile, electricity and water supply cut by the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) were "restored to the affected families" after the Minister's intervention.

Top government sources said Mr. Rana, the Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest & Tribal Affairs, was invited to chair the 'International Day for Biological Diversity' as chief guest at Srinagar's Dachigam on Friday.

Mr. Rana's boycott for the event came to the fore days after 32 structures of Gujjars and Bakarwals were demolished by a joint team of Forest department and the J&K Police in Jammu's Raika Bandi, Sidra on May 19.

Over two dozen families were dislodged from the area, weeks after a BJP legislator protested against these nomadic communities' stay in the area.

Another Trinamool councillor held in a spate of arrests

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Charges against those arrested include intimidation, money laundering and extortion

Four Trinamool Congress councillors from the municipality of Bidhannagar, Kolkata, also known as Salt Lake City, have been arrested this week in West Bengal.

Samrat Barua, Trinamool councillor from Ward 6, Bidhannagar, was arrested on Saturday morning for intimidation, violence, and extortion. Sushobhan Mandal (Ward 26), Samaresh Chakraborty (Ward 9), and Ranjan Poddar (Ward 34) are the other party councillors arrested in the past few days, under charges similar to those made against Mr. Barua.

On Friday, Shankar Rout, a Trinamool workers' union leader from Baranagar in the northern fringes of Kolkata, was arrested under charges of extortion and physical violence, and produced in court on Saturday.

Several Trinamool leaders, including councillors, panchayat pradhans and local leaders, have been arrested after the new BJP government came to power. The charges against the arrested Trinamool leaders have ranged from post-poll violence after the 2021 Assembly election to extortion, threats, money laundering, and more.

The Trinamool's top leadership has largely remained silent on the arrests.

"They [Trinamool councillors] have done these activities before and are continuing with their threats. They need to change. Many have gone underground, but the police will find them. No one can escape the law if they have wronged people," State Cabinet Minister Dilip Ghosh said.

Only leaders against whom complaints have been made were being arrested, senior BJP leader and MP Sukanta Majumdar said.

Bidhannagar MLA and former Trinamool Minister Sujit Bose was arrested on May 11 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the municipality recruitment scam case.

Several others in the Bidhannagar constituency have also found themselves in the West Bengal Police's net.

SC files *suo motu* case on Twisha's death; husband sent to seven-day custody

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/ BHOPAL

Samarth Singh being taken into police custody; HC orders to form a special team from AIIMS Delhi for Twisha's second autopsy. PTI

The Supreme Court on Saturday registered a *suo motu* case concerning the alleged dowry death of Noida resident Twisha Sharma amid allegations by her family that her in-laws tampered with evidence and that the investigation suffered from procedural irregularities.

A three-judge Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pancholi is scheduled to hear the matter on May 25.

Samarth Singh, husband of Twisha Sharma, was on Saturday sent to seven days of police custody in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, a day after he was arrested in connection with a dowry death and harassment case, the police said.

Allegations by family

The top court's intervention comes amid mounting allegations by Sharma's family regarding the manner in which the probe into her death was handled. The family has alleged procedural lapses, institutional bias, and tampering with evidence, while also seeking scrutiny of phone records and other material connected to the case.

The Supreme Court's decision to take *suo motu* cognisance indicates that it has independently decided to examine the matter in view of the seriousness of the allegations and concerns surrounding the investigation.

Sharma, 33, was found dead at her matrimonial home in Bhopal on the night of May 12. The actor-model had married Samarth Singh, a lawyer, on December 25 last year. Her family has levelled allegations of mental harassment and financial demands against Mr. Singh and his mother.

Second autopsy

The Madhya Pradesh High Court ordered a second autopsy of Sharma's body to be conducted by a specialised team from AIIMS Delhi amid demands by her parents.

Bhopal Police Commissioner Sanjay Kumar said the autopsy will be performed at AIIMS Bhopal after the expert team arrives from New Delhi.

Bhopal (Zone 2) Deputy Commissioner of Police Vikas Sehwal told *The Hindu* that during the remand period, the SIT probing the case will recreate the scene of crime along and Mr. Singh's mother, Giribala Singh (a retired judge and another accused in the case) is also called for the interrogation.

He added that everyone related to the woman's death will be questioned and their roles looked into.

Centre issues alert on phishing scam targeting iPhones

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

MHA asks users to avoid clicking links received via SMS and to check URLs. REUTERS

The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), has identified a sophisticated phishing campaign targeting Apple iPhone users whose devices have been lost or stolen, according to an advisory issued by the agency.

Hackers impersonate Apple Support, and exploit victims' urgency to locate or secure their missing devices through fraudulent SMS messages containing phishing links.

"These messages closely resemble legitimate 'Find My iPhone' or Apple Support notifications and redirect users to counterfeit Apple login pages designed to steal Apple ID credentials and One-Time Passwords (OTP). Once compromised, attackers gain unauthorised access to victims' accounts and remove the linked Apple ID from the stolen device," the advisory said. This allows the hackers to resell or reuse the device without restrictions.

The National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit of the I4C asked affected people to "avoid clicking links received via SMS (especially from international SMS Headers) or unsolicited messages and carefully check the URL before entering credentials".

It added that the perpetrators in possession of the stolen iPhones target device owners through deceptive means.

Fraudulent SMSs are usually sent from numeric headers.

"These messages contain phishing links and typically claim that the lost device has been temporarily switched off or that urgent action is required to erase contacts, media, and other data," it said.

The agency urged users to use Apple's official "Find Devices" service page – https://www.icloud.com/find – to trace the missing devices.

‘India, Nordic countries are on the same page on peace’

While India has a different relationship with Russia, it does not mean that Nordic nations cannot engage on other points, says Iceland’s Prime Minister; the biggest growth areas in a partnership between India and Iceland will be in renewable energy, cultural cooperation and people-to-people ties, she adds, making a pitch for film crews to consider her country’s landscape as a backdrop for new projects

INTERVIEW

Kristrún Mjöll Frostadóttir

Suhasini Haidar
OSLO

India and the Nordic countries have a new engagement, driven in part by a desire for middle powers to find common ground in the face of concerns about global powers. However, there are clear differences on ties with Russia, says Iceland’s Prime Minister Kristrún Mjöll Frostadóttir. Speaking to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the recent India-Nordic Summit in Oslo, Ms. Frostadóttir, who, at 38, is one of the world’s youngest leaders, and an economist by training, said she hopes to discuss new areas to improve bilateral trade, which is currently at extremely low levels, through a focus on renewable energy technologies. She also pitched for more Indian films to be shot against Icelandic backdrops.

Is the emergence of the relationship between India and Nordic countries driven by concerns that the three big powers right now are seen as breaking the international rule of law?

The relationship between the Nordics and India has a longer history than maybe what we’ve been seeing over the course of the last couple of years, so I don’t want to tie it directly to that, but I think, in general, a lot of countries are looking outward... Things are shifting, new deals are being done. You see this with the EU as well, you see it with Canada, and you see it now with India.

The most important message out of the [India-Nordic] summit is, there’s hope for international relations. There are still large democratic countries like India that are opening up instead of closing off, and this is what the world needs to hear.

Even so, there’s a basic difference between Nordic countries and India, over ties with Russia...

REUTERS

I won’t deny that India has a different relationship with Russia than the Nordics do. I do know, however, that Prime Minister Modi wants this war to end, and I think we’re all on that page. We believe Ukraine needs to win this war. For small Nordic countries, this is important, that you know people respect the rule of law, they respect borders, that we don’t set up double standards. We had the issue with Greenland [and the U.S.], and we want to ensure that we don’t set a precedent in that regard. That doesn’t mean that we can’t interact at other levels, but we’ve sent out clear messages on our stand on Ukraine.

India and Iceland trade relations are nascent, just about $30-40 million... Where do you see the biggest growth areas? And do you plan a visit to India?

I would love to go to India. I think that’s definitely something that we’re looking into. We should work with what we already have. We have a great relationship when it comes to renewables. There’s so much growth potential for India there with its goal of 500 gigawatts renewable energy. We also have potential in cultural ties, and [PM Modi and I] discussed the Indian film industry. We have had outside film crews coming in and using Icelandic territory as backdrop. I think that would be a very interesting cooperation that we could have.

Also, we have many people, including Indians, coming to Iceland with their skills, becoming a part of the community in a very positive way. So there’s also development opportunities there.

On that issue, when we speak to the Indian community their worry is that they are no longer welcome the way they used to be. What is the future of immigration to Europe?

I understand that [concern]. I think there’s been a big shift in attitudes to migration, especially when it comes to, I mean, I can only speak from my part of the world, where we’ve maybe been pushed into a setting where we’re focusing too much on low-skilled, low-value immigration. I don’t see that as an issue when it comes to Indian migration.

These are usually people coming in with high levels of education, going into productive jobs, so it’s also a matter of how you frame it, but this is a responsibility of the government as well.

The full interview is at newsth.live/iceland

(The reporter was in Oslo at the invitation of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to cover the India-Nordic Summit)

Ayushman Bharat scheme to start in Bengal from July 1

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Saturday held a meeting with Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda, and announced that the Centre’s Ayushman Bharat scheme would be rolled out in the State from July 1.

This is the first time West Bengal will be part of the scheme, launched in 2018, after a long impasse between the previous State government and the Centre over the implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes.

Mr. Nadda and Mr. Adhikari held a virtual meeting over a video call and discussed the State’s health infrastructure, immunisation, maternal and child health initiatives, and other important healthcare issues.

“Under the National Health Mission, a total resource envelope of ₹3505.59 crore for FY 2026-27 was conveyed to the State, out of which, the first mother sanction of ₹527.58 crore has been released to the State today [Saturday],” an official statement from the Health Ministry said.

The State Chief Secretary, Chief Adviser to the Chief Minister, Health Secretary, and other State officials also joined the hour-long meeting.

This is the first time that West Bengal will be a part of the Central scheme that was launched in 2018

This is the first time Mr. Adhikari and the Union Minister have met after the Bharatiya Janata Party government assumed office in the State.

“In the health sector, the previous government did not cooperate with the Union government. Rather, they opposed it. This resulted in crores of people in Bengal being deprived of all benefits under the Central-State schemes, unlike other States,” Mr. Adhikari said at Nabanna (State Secretariat) after the meeting.

Cards and meds

The Chief Minister further added that work on enrollment for Ayushman Bharat cards has already started, and benefits under the scheme would be available from July 1. He also said that the nearly six crore people using the previous Trinamool Congress government’s Swastha Saathi health insurance cards would be shifted to the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Medicines for critical and chronic illnesses would be made available at 50%-80% discounts under the Amrit pharmacy scheme.

Centre ‘looted’ public when fuel prices were low, seeks ‘sacrifice’ now, says Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With petrol and diesel prices rising for the third time in eight days, the Congress on Saturday questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not disclose the seriousness of the country’s fuel supply situation while addressing Parliament on the impact of the West Asia conflict on March 23, and accused the Centre of burdening citizens with fuel price hikes after Assembly elections.

Accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government of “looting the public in instalments”, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Centre did not pass down the benefits to the people when international prices were low.

In remarks posted on X, Mr. Kharge accused the government of continuing to impose heavy central taxes on petrol and diesel while failing to pass on the gains from periods of lower global crude prices. He alleged that the government had “looted” consumers when oil prices were low and later appealed for “sacrifice” once international prices rose. “Petrol has now crossed ₹100... looting the public’s earnings in instalments,” he said.

The Congress president also accused the government of timing fuel price reductions around elections and resuming hikes after polling concluded.

Making a point: Congress leaders Dolly Sharma and Rajeev Gowda at a press conference in New Delhi on Saturday. @AICC

He said when the West Asia crisis had broken out, the Prime Minister was busy giving “everything is fine sedative” while other countries provided relief to their citizens.

Broader stress

Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Congress research department chairman Rajeev Gowda said rising fuel prices and the depreciating rupee reflected broader economic distress. “There is a race going on between fuel and the rupee as to which will hit the century first,” Mr. Gowda said, referring to petrol prices nearing ₹100 per litre and the rupee approaching 100 against the U.S. dollar.

The Congress leader accused the Prime Minister of *dhokebaazi* (deception) by not revealing the seriousness of the fuel supply situation in his address to Parliament in March or before the Assembly polls.

Mr. Gowda said that when crude prices collapsed after 2014, particularly in 2020-21, the Centre retained high excise duties instead of reducing retail prices. He said taxes had constituted nearly 54% of petrol and 49% of diesel prices in Delhi at the peak of the 2021 price surge.

Questioning the Centre’s “Aatmanirbharta” claims while pointing to rising dependence on imported crude and liquefied petroleum gas and declining production, the principal Opposition party also alleged that benefits from discounted Russian crude imports and windfall tax collections were not adequately shared with consumers while oil marketing companies posted significant profits.

U.P. Congress chief booked over remarks against PM

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A First Information Report (FIR) was registered against Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai over alleged abusive remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, based on a complaint filed by BJP district working committee member Neeraj Kumar Rawat in Mahoba, the police said on Saturday.

The complainant alleged that Mr. Rai, through his comments and actions, spread hatred, gathered a crowd without permission, obstructed government work, and blocked a public road.

“On 22 May, a video came to notice through social media in which Congress State president Ajay Rai, along with supporters, obstructed government work by illegally gathering and blocking the public road and made objectionable/indecent remarks regarding the Prime Minister. A complaint was filed at Kotwali Nagar police station, Mahoba. A case has been registered, and necessary action is being taken,” Mahoba ACP Vandana Singh said.

However, Mr. Rai described the FIR as an “attempt to prevent him from seeking justice for common people” and accused the BJP government of misusing the State apparatus to target opponents.

Dipke’s accounts shut; website of Cockroach Janta Party blocked

Amarjot Kaur
NEW DELHI

The official website of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), a youth-led satirical political outfit, was taken down at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Accusing the Indian government of orchestrating the takedown, CJP’s founder Abhijeet Dipke wrote on X that the organisation’s website had garnered nearly 10 lakh members. In the same post, he said over six lakh people had signed a petition on Friday demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan following the NEET-UG paper leak.

‘Are the youth a threat?’

“A national daily reported that my X account was blocked under the Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, following a direction from the Centre, in the wake of inputs from the Intelligence Bureau that raised ‘national security concerns’. It’s one thing that this outfit is a satire, which is perceived as a national threat, and another that it comprises the youth of the country. Are you saying that satire and the youth of this country are a national threat? Today, I woke up to having lost all access to my personal account on Instagram and also the CJP’s account on the social media platform. Attempts to hack into my accounts have been made for three days now,” Mr. Dipke told *The Hindu* over a phone call from the U.S., where he is based.

Abhijeet Dipke

“I don’t think the ruling party has the stomach for sarcasm,” he said. “Why is the government so scared of cockroaches?.. But you can’t get rid of us that easily. We’re working on a new home right now. Cockroaches never die,” Mr. Dipke said in his X post.

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Chief Engineer (Commercial & Tariff), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram

Inviting Short term tender for the procurement of 200MW RTC power from 15th June 2026 to 31st August 2026. DEEP portal reference no - KSEBL/Short/26-27/ET/22 dtd 23.05.2026.
Last Date for submission of queries - 28.05.2026.
Submission of RfP (online digitally signed non financial technical Bid and IPOs) – 03.06.2026, 02.00 pm
For more details visit www.kseb.in
Ref : PR/MC1/F-388/2026

CPI(M) wants Pradhan to resign, NTA scrapped

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Saturday demanded the scrapping of the National Testing Agency (NTA) over the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak, and also sought the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, alleging repeated failures and loss of credibility of the country’s centralised examination system.

In a resolution, unanimously adopted during its Central Committee meeting being held here from May 22 to 24, the CPI(M) expressed “deep concern and anguish” over “repeated leak of NEET papers”.

Raghav Chadha made chairman of Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha, who switched from the AAP to the BJP recently, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee on Petitions of the Upper House.

After reconstituting the Committee on Petitions, Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan nominated 10 members of the house to the panel. “Raghav Chadha has been appointed Chairman of the Committee,” a Rajya Sabha notification said. The panel has been reconstituted by the Rajya Sabha Chairman with effect from May 20, it said.

The members of the panel, besides Mr. Chadha, are Harsh Mahajan, Gulam Ali, Shambhu Sharan Patel, Mayankkumar Nayak, Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha, Jebi Mather Hisham, Subhasish Khuntia, Rwngwra Narzary and P. Sandosh Kumar.

In another notification, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said, “The Chairman, Rajya Sabha has, on 20 May 2026, nominated Dr. Menaka Guruswamy, Member, Rajya Sabha to be a member of the Joint Committee on the Corporate Laws [Amendment] Bill, 2026.”

Earlier, on April 26, Raghav Chadha, with six other AAP Rajya Sabha members, quit the Aam Aadmi Party. Mr. Chadha accused the AAP of having completely strayed from its core principles and values.

He had said that he distanced himself from AAP about a year ago as he “did not want to be complicit in their wrongdoings”.

Office of the Director General of Audit
Railway, Secunderabad - 500003.

Short Notice for Young Professional

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement of **one (1) Young Professional (YP)** to the **Project Titled:** AI-Driven Risk-Based Audit Analytics System for Enhanced Audit Efficiency in Government Entities, on short term contractual basis.

Detailed advertisement containing eligibility criteria, terms and conditions, and application format is available on the office website: http://cag.gov.in/ag/telangana/en/ae-circulars-office-orders

(Sd/-)
Director General of Audit (Railways)

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक Indian Overseas Bank
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EMPANELMENT OF CONCURRENT AUDITORS

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK invites online application from eligible Chartered Accountant firms for assignment of Concurrent Audit of branches. The list of branches available for concurrent audit and the terms and conditions will be published in our website www.iob.bank.in → Tenders → Empanelment. The portal will be kept open from **11.00 A.M.** on **27.05.2026** to **5.00 P. M.** on **10.06.2026.**

Chief General Manager (Inspection)

U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
56/2366 (Old No. 27/1038 B), Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036
Tel No. 0484 2323448 / 2323458
E-Mail: ldcladm2016@gmail.com Website: lakshadweep.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM TO EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Reference is invited to the Employment Notice published on 24.04.2026 for filling up 2 (two) posts of **Marine Superintendent on Deputation basis from Central/State Governments and PSUs,** failing which on **Contract basis,** from eligible candidates with Class I Marine Engineer Officer (MEO) certificate having worked as Chief Engineer in coastal/ foreign going vessels for at least one year.

The last date for receipt of applications has been modified to 02.06.2026. Candidates who have already applied in response to the earlier notification **need not apply again.**

Please visit our Website: **lakshadweep.gov.in** for details.

22.05.2026
Sd/- General Manager

Government of Odisha
Sports & Youth Services Department
Kalinga Stadium, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012
e-mail : deptsportsodisha@gmail.com

Corrigendum

With reference to RFP No: PT2-SYS-YS-YS-0017-2026-16012/SYS dated 11.05.2026, modifications to the RFP have been issued vide Corrigendum No. No. PT2- SYS-YS-YS-0017-2026-**17608**/SYS dated 22.05.2026 and No. PT2-SYS-YS-YS-0017- 2026/**17609**/SYS dated 22.05.2026. These amendments shall be deemed an integral part of the original RFP.

All other terms and conditions stated in the original RFP remain unchanged. All applicants are requested to comply with the revised provisions.

For further details, please refer to the official notifications available on the websites : https://sports.odisha.gov.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in.

Sd/-
Additional Secretary
OIPR-29001/29001/1/26-27/0007

29001/9/2627

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
(Established by an Act of Parliament)
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Website: www.sanskrit.nic.in

Advt. No. 03/2026 Date: 24/05/2026

Notification for Engagement of Various Contractual Positions

Online Applications are invited for the engagement of eligible candidates to Contractual position of **Young Professional-Ayurveda Gurukulam (03), Technical Assistant (01), Guest Faculty (Yogic Science) (02), System Analyst (01), Account Officer (01), Video Editor (01), Post Doctoral Fellow (01), Project Fellow (04) and Office Assistant (01)** in Headquarter Office and Various Campuses of Central Sanskrit University. For detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, engagement process and submission of online applications etc., please check the notification published in the University’s website under Recruitment Tab at **www.sanskrit.nic.in**.

Last date for submission of online application is 07th June, 2026 till 11:30 PM.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR I/c

INBRIEF

Centre asks Delhi Gymkhana Club to vacate by June 5

The Delhi Gymkhana Club has been asked by the Union Urban Affairs Ministry to hand over its premises by June 5 as the 27.3-acre plot was required for "strengthening and securing defence infrastructure". The club stands adjacent to the Prime Minister's residence on the Lok Kalyan Marg in the national capital. The premises, located in a highly sensitive and strategic area of Delhi, is critically required for the strengthening and securing of defence infrastructure and other vital public security purposes. An order issued by the Land & Development Office (L&DO) under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said.

Seven arrested as U.P. STF busts SSC exam-rigging racket

The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force has busted an alleged racket involved in rigging Staff Selection Commission (SSC) online recruitment exams using proxy servers and dummy candidates, arresting seven people from Greater Noida, officials said on Saturday. The accused were manipulating SSC examinations for recruitment of constables in the Central Armed Police Forces and Secretariat Security Force, and riflemen in the Assam Rifles, at an online exam centre operating under the name "Balaji Digital Zone" in the Knowledge Park area. The racket was busted on Friday. The STF seized ₹50 lakh in cash, five laptops, and other items from them.

Nagaland steps up ASF curbs; pork sale banned in districts

The government has intensified surveillance and containment measures following the outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) in various parts of Nagaland, while several districts imposed bans on the import, transport, and sale of pigs and pork products. The Directorate of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services has been closely monitoring the situation through district veterinary officers and field staffers who are actively engaged in surveillance, containment, awareness campaigns, sample collection and implementation of bio-security measures to prevent further spread of ASF, an official statement said in Kohima. PTI

Major Abhilasha Barak wins UN's gender advocate award

An Indian peacekeeper serving with the United Nations mission in Lebanon, Major Abhilasha Barak, has been named the recipient of a prestigious military gender advocate award by the UN. Ms. Barak has been honoured with the '2025 United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year' award for her outreach efforts with women and girls during her deployment in the West Asian nation. "She is being recognised for her outreach and community engagement activities for women and adolescent girls and gender sensitisation training for peacekeepers," the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations said in a post on X on Friday.

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	3	2	4	6	1	5	8	9
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5	2	6	1	9	4	7	3	8
2	4	9	8	5	7	3	6	1
1	7	8	6	4	3	9	5	2
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Rubio visits Missionaries of Charity; Opposition raises FCRA amendment

Trinamool Congress MP calls it 'sheer hypocrisy' for the Centre to showcase the Missionaries of Charity to an international visitor, while proposing a Bill barring Christian bodies from receiving foreign aid and enabling seizure of Church assets

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio began his maiden four-day visit to India on Saturday by visiting Mother House, the headquarters of Saint Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, in central Kolkata.

After about an hour at Mother House, where he was welcomed by the sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, Mr. Rubio visited Nirmala Sishu Bhawan, an orphanage run by the same group.

His visit assumes significance particularly in the wake of concerns that a proposed Bill to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) would restrict the ability of Christian organisations in India, including the Missionaries of Charity, to receive foreign funds and would make them vulnerable to the seizure of their assets.

Days before the visit, U.S Congressman Chris Smith had urged the Secretary of State to push the Indian government to withdraw these amendments, referring to the temporary suspension of the Missionaries of Charity's FCRA licence in 2022 as an illustration of the risk.

"Under these amendments, all of the order's assets could have been seized outright and permanently lost, though the licence was eventually restored," Mr. Smith wrote in an Op-Ed in the *Washington Examiner*.

Tributes to Mother: U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his wife, Jeanette D. Rubio, pay homage to Mother Teresa at Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata on Saturday. U.S. envoy Sergio Gor is seen. ANI

Ambitious agenda

Mr. Rubio landed around 6.50 a.m. and he was welcomed by U.S. Ambassador Sergio Gor at the airport.

"Honored to welcome my friend @SecRubio to India! We have an ambitious agenda ahead, including the Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting, focused on advancing @POTUS' vision for an even stronger U.S.-India partnership. Looking forward to great conversations and making real progress together!" Ambassador Gor posted on social media. Later in the day, the U.S. Secretary of State was set to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi.

Mr. Rubio's visit triggered a war of words between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress over the FCRA status of the Missionaries of Charity and the impact of the proposed Bill.

'Sheer hypocrisy'

Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghose said that Mr. Rubio's visit to Mother House was a salute to the Catholic group's "exemplary globally renowned humanitarian service", even as she decried the "sheer hypocrisy" of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre.

"An anti-Christian government which through new proposed FCRA Bill had barred Missionaries of Charity from receiving foreign aid and is enabling seizure of Church assets, thus destroying the ability of Christian institutions to do the humanitarian, massive educational and healthcare providing service they are known for, yet now showcasing our revered Mother Teresa's organisation for the international visitor," she said in a post on X.

BJP leader Amit Malviya dismissed Ms. Ghose's claims about the group's FCRA status as "blatant falsehood", though he did not respond to her allegations about the proposed FCRA amendments and their impact.

'Distortion of facts'

"This is a deliberate and malicious attempt to spread disinformation, malign the Government of India, and mislead people through a complete distortion of facts," Mr. Malviya said.

He insisted that the Missionaries of Charity is registered under the Act and continues to hold an active FCRA registration.

"The validity of the FCRA registration is till 31-12-2026. No application concerning its FCRA status is pending as on date," he said.

"He [Secretary Rubio] wanted blessings at the Mother's Tomb. So, we prayed together and that's about it, nothing else happened. It was just a family get-together," a representative of Missionaries of Charity told presspersons.

Historic visit

The last time the city hosted a U.S. Secretary of State was in May 2012 when Hillary Clinton had visited Kolkata and met the then-Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee.

Mr. Rubio visited Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, with security stepped up at both locations for the high-profile visit.

Assam CM backs Muslim plea to avoid cow sacrifice

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday welcomed the statements issued by various Eidgah and graveyard committees in the State, urging Muslims not to sacrifice cows during Bakrid, or Id-ul-Azha.

Over the past few days, Eidgah committees in at least four districts – Bongaigaon, Cachar, Dhubri, and Hojai – have appealed to community members to respect the religious sentiments of non-Muslims by refraining from slaughtering cows during Bakrid.

The festival of sacrifice is on May 27.

The Eidgah representatives urged Muslims to consider sacrificing animals other than cows to preserve social harmony. They noted that cows held deep cultural and religious significance in some societies and stressed the importance of maintaining communal goodwill.

"I welcome the initiatives of the Eidgah Committees in Hojai, Dhubri, Bongaigaon, Udharbond (Cachar district), and other places. They have respected the sentiments of the majority community. Such voluntary actions will go a long way in strengthening communal harmony in Assam. I hope other Eidgah committees will also issue similar appeals," Mr. Sarma wrote on social media platform X.

A nation that makes its own weapons writes its destiny, says Rajnath

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that countries capable of producing their own weapons shaped their own future, as he inaugurated NIBE Group's Defence Manufacturing Complex in Shirdi, Maharashtra, in the presence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The newly inaugurated complex will manufacture advanced artillery systems, missile and space technologies, rocket systems, energetic materials, and autonomous defence platforms, strengthening India's push towards self-reliance in defence production.

Rajnath Singh

According to the Ministry, a major highlight of the event was the flagging off of India's first 300-km Universal Rocket Launching System, Suryastra. The foundation stone for a dedicated missile complex for the system was also laid.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Singh said future wars would be determined by advancements in munitions, automation, and emerging technologies rather than merely the size of armed forces.

Agri-tech has improved productivity, post-harvest management, say experts

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Advances in agriculture technology have made tremendous inroads into the agricultural sector, enhancing production manifold and creating innovative solutions to modern farming challenges, experts at a webinar have said.

They were speaking on the topic "Agriculture technology revolution", jointly organised by the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) and *The Hindu* as part of their Future Career Conversations series.

Devinder Dhingra, Principal Scientist (Process Engineering), Agricultural Engineering Division, Indian Council for Agricultural Research, said that 47% of farm work was now mechanised, and the introduction of scientific methods has led to surplus production, which has resulted in agricultural produce being exported. While mechanisation of harvesting horticulture crops continued to pose a challenge, harvest of field crops has been largely mechanised, and farmers were using precision equipment for the same.

"Drones are being actively used for crop management and spraying of pesticides," Dr. Dhingra said, adding that crop storage mechanisms have undergone tremendous changes as well.

Poorna Pushkala, CEO, Samunnati Foundation, said the sector had been bolstered by multiple decentralised energy systems and various ad-tech innovations. "We have highly customised solutions available for climatic and geographical conditions now. Several post-harvest technologies are also available in the market created by students or professionals with less than five years of experience," she noted. Anybody with a passion to solve problems innovatively would have a space in agriculture, she added.

Leenus Jesu Martin M., Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, SRMIST, said that agriculture, initially a stand-alone discipline, was now a multi-disciplinary field with mechanical, automation, and computing engineers all playing a big role in the mechanisation process. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, he said, formed the basis of smart agriculture and Internet of Things played a role in connecting various farm jobs.

Jawaharlal M., Dean, SRM College of Agriculture Sciences, said that almost all branches of engineering and technology could be linked to agriculture. While collective and cooperative farming system benefit workers, high value crops could be produced in low volume if technology was linked to farming, he added.

A.M. Jigeesh, Senior Deputy Editor, *The Hindu*, moderated the webinar, which can be accessed at https://newsth.live/THSRMRY.

WHA marks stroke as public health priority for the first time

Ramya Kannan

The World Health Assembly (WHA) passed the first-ever resolution on strokes on Friday, urging member states to recognise the medical condition as a public health priority and to strengthen national policies across the full care pathway. This involves prevention and risk-factor control, timely acute treatment, expanded rehabilitation, and long-term support.

The WHO definition of stroke is a medical emergency that occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted, either due to a blockage or bleeding. This lack of blood flow can lead to brain cell death and serious complications. Strokes can be fatal and need immediate treatment. It is estimated that strokes affect 12 million people every year, killing over half of them, and leaving two out of three survivors with a lasting disability.

The resolution calls for stronger national and global action to reduce the burden of strokes, through prevention, acute care, rehabilitation, and improved health system readiness. It also reinforces reporting accountability.

Kouamivi Agboyibor, WHO's medical officer for cardiovascular diseases and strokes, called the resolution "historic", saying it created a political mandate. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Egypt's Minister of Health and Population, who submitted the resolution to the Assembly, said: "The resolution gives every country a framework to close the gaps in stroke care systematically... Commitment today means fewer deaths and fewer disabled citizens tomorrow."

Stroke is a medical emergency that occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted, due to a blockage or bleeding. GETTY IMAGES

As per estimates published in an article in the peer-reviewed *International Journal of Stroke*, the crude incidence of stroke in India ranges from 108 to 172 per 1,00,000 people per year, with a one-month case fatality rate between 18% and 42%. There are only 8,000-odd neurologists and neurosurgeons for India's entire population, and this compounds concerns about the inadequacy of care. "One detail that is more important than new strokes annually or even the one-month case fatality is the millions of man hours lost (including that of the caretakers)," says K. Ganapathy, senior neurologist and past president of the Neurological Society of India.

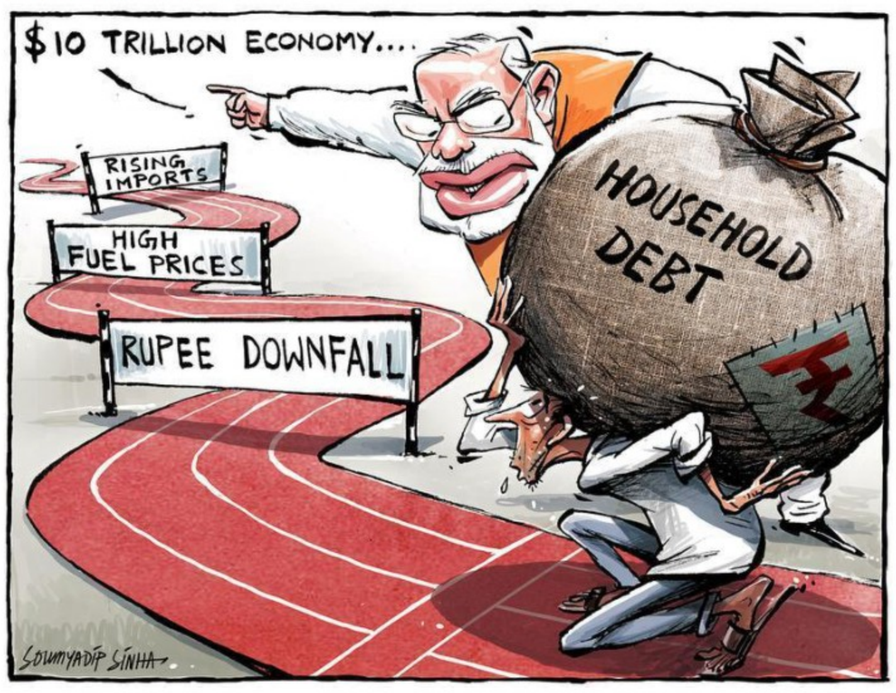
'Wake-up call'

"There is enough data now to show that strokes occur much earlier in India than in other countries. While specific genes have been identified, it is their interaction with a modifiable environment that actually increases the risk of stroke in the young," he says. The good news is that risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, tobacco use, obesity, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet, air pollution, and alcohol misuse are all reversible.

He adds: "This resolution should be a wake-up call for India. With the current state of digital literacy an an excellent telecom network, India can show the rest of the world that stroke prevention is eminently doable."

E.S. Krishnamoorthy, a neuropsychiatrist and founder of the Buddhi Clinic, says, "WHO's first dedicated stroke resolution is a landmark moment as it recognises stroke not just as an acute medical emergency, but as a lifelong neurological and rehabilitation challenge. For countries like India, where stroke-related disability is rising rapidly, the emphasis on prevention, rehabilitation, health-system readiness and scalable neurorehabilitation models is especially important."

CARTOONSCAPE | SOUMYADIP SINHA



How resilient is our grid system?

Although the government has highlighted that peak demands are being met, presenting it as evidence of the strength of India's electricity system, reports of power cuts continue to surface; peak power deficit on Friday stood at about 1.7 GW

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

On Friday, the Ministry of Power said electricity demand had broken all previous records, with peak demand rising to nearly 271 GW on Thursday. The government has highlighted that such record demands are being met, presenting it as evidence of the strength of India's electricity system. Yet reports of power cuts from many parts of the country continue to surface. Even while stressing preparedness, the Ministry also urged consumers to use electricity judiciously.

India's peak power deficit as reported on Friday stood at about 1.7 GW, according to Grid-India. This would have translated into load shedding and blackouts in some areas.

However, the actual deficit is likely higher and largely unreported, say some experts. Modern Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems monitor demand and help dispatch centres route electricity to maintain grid stability and prevent widespread blackouts. Vishnu Rao, team leader for electricity governance at Citizen consumer and civic Action Group, Chennai, says dispatch centres work at the macro level and local outages and curtailed demand are often excluded from official figures.

Areas may be deliberately disconnected by distribution companies operating independently of state load dispatch centres and in separate silos, meaning such suppressed demand is never recorded, he says. "These local disruptions can be extensive yet remain outside the public domain," adds Mr. Vishnu Rao.

Power struggle: In Tamil Nadu, peak demand was higher in April than in May and was met partly via short-term purchases. FILE PHOTO

Deepak Krishnan, Deputy Director (Energy Program), WRI India, is however skeptical if power distributors are continuing to suppress demand in a significant way and points to error margins being reported by Grid-India as an indication of unprecedented heat stresses affecting electricity demand. These error percentages express the deviation between the demand forecast and the actual demand. On a recent day, these errors were 4% for previous day forecast and a little above 1% for real time (short term) forecast. India's total peak demand is roughly equal to the installed capacity of its thermal and hydroelectric plants capable of supplying stable power. On paper, this suggests sufficient generation capacity. The situation is not very different from that in the U.S., where peak demand is also close to thermal, hydro and nuclear capacity. Yet power cuts there are extremely rare.

Some experts point to distribution issues. K. Ashok Rao, patron of India's Power Engineers Association, argues that distribution infrastructure has failed to keep pace with rapidly rising demand. He says privatisation of profitable distribution segments has weakened State-owned discoms, which already struggle financially because a large share of consumers cannot afford higher tariffs, leaving the companies with little money for boosting infrastructure.

Meanwhile, power cuts across Uttar Pradesh have generated much consternation among people there. Bengaluru has experienced frequent power cuts and prolonged outages in recent weeks. While the State distributor has blamed maintenance work, transformer tripping and weather-related faults, residents in areas such as HRBR Layout, Chandapura and Whitefield say outages lasting several hours have become routine. In some places, scheduled feeder maintenance shutdowns have stretched from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., while unscheduled cuts and voltage fluctuations have added to consumer frustration.

Kerala faced difficulties in April, when power cuts of under 30 minutes were imposed during peak hours. This month, stronger summer rainfall has eased the situation by reducing demand. The State generates only about 30% of its electricity, largely from hydropower, and depends on purchases to meet evening peak demand.

In Tamil Nadu, peak demand was higher in April than in May and was met partly through short-term power purchases. Although official load shedding figures remain at zero, a senior State electricity department official acknowledged that local supply disruptions have affected parts of Chennai.

Mr. Krishnan says there are several other factors too behind localized power cuts. He says that although all of India is one grid on paper, transmission bottlenecks could prevent power flow from surplus to deficit areas; in addition, local grid constraints/infrastructure weakness could also be an issue.

Mr. Ashok Rao also points to the challenge of fluctuating renewable energy. Renewable generators, he says, have no responsibility toward grid stability, leaving the burden on grid managers. "A sudden cloud cover can throw a large chunk of solar power out of the grid and this is not sustainable," he says. Currently, renewables account for 17% of India's electricity generation, compared with 72% from thermal power, 9% from hydro and 2% from nuclear energy.

Others argue that advanced forecasting technologies are available to help integrate renewable power more effectively into the grid. These technologies have been successfully deployed in nations such as Germany with high renewable penetration.

Mr. Krishnan of WRI points out that peak demands are happening when solar energy has wound down, while power cuts happening in the evenings cannot be blamed for nstabilities due to solar power.

(With inputs from Tiki Rajwi, Rishita Khanna and R. Srikanth)

INBRIEF

Himadri increases investment in Australia's Sicona Battery

Himadri Speciality Chemicals Ltd. announced it had made an additional investment in Sicona Battery Technologies. The investment has been done through the subscription of compulsorily convertible notes (CCNs), the company said in a filing with stock exchanges. Himadri Speciality has invested Australian Dollars 25,59,000 (around ₹17.54 crore) in cash for this tranche, subscribing to 25,59,000 CCNs with a face value of one Australian Dollar each."The additional investment made by the company is in line with Himadri's vision to become the largest EV battery material company in the world," the company said in a statement.

Goyal to visit Canada with 50 business leaders

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India's Trade Minister Piyush Goyal will visit Canada between May 25 and May 27, heading a delegation of about 150 Indian industry leaders as part of efforts to strengthen trade and investment ties between the two countries.

Mr. Goyal told a news briefing on Saturday that the delegation would hold meetings with Canadian ministers, business leaders and industry groups in Ottawa and Toronto.

India and Canada have been seeking to revive economic engagement after diplomatic tensions slowed bilateral trade talks.

WHEN CONFLICTS BRING UNCERTAINTY

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Health Minister, Tamil Nadu, and General Secretary for Policy, TVK

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A BG-BGE

Jharia coal fires may burn hotter, emit more greenhouse gases

Vasudevan Mukunth

Fires have burnt beneath the Jharia coal fields in Jharkhand for decades now, releasing smoke and gases through cracks in the ground. And according to a new study, parts of this underground fire system may burn hotter and release more greenhouse gases than previously estimated.

Researchers from the U.K. and India, including the CSIR-CIMFR, reported in a May 18 paper in *Communications Earth & Environment* that the collapsed structures created when underground fires consume coal seams and destabilise the rock above them can stretch vertically for more than 100 m through the earth, venting hot gases into the air.

When mining exposes coal to oxygen, natural oxidation reactions can trigger underground fires that smoulder for decades. Previous estimates suggested fires in the region already emitted copious greenhouse gases, but scientists have struggled to track them accurately because the fires spread irregularly.

The new study focused on the Ena, Bastacolla, and Tisera collieries. In 2018-2023, the researchers used numerical modelling and mineralogical analysis to document collapsed structures up to 10 m wide, collected samples of melted rock and glass-like materials, and analysed their composition. The researchers found that larger cavities often had paralava: rock melted and re-solidified by the heat of coal fires. At Ena and Tisera, they found a kind of fused, glass-enveloped rock they nicknamed "birianiite", reflecting the rock's mix of geological ingredients and its resemblance to the popular rice dish.

The researchers combined field observations with computer modelling. Their simulations suggested that large, isolated collapse structures could, on paper, approach 4,000 C in some conditions, much higher than estimates commonly associated with underground coal fires.

Using modelling based on the amount of coal likely burned in the structures, the team also estimated the global warming potential of Jharia's fires at up to 748.72 MT of CO_2-equivalent per year.

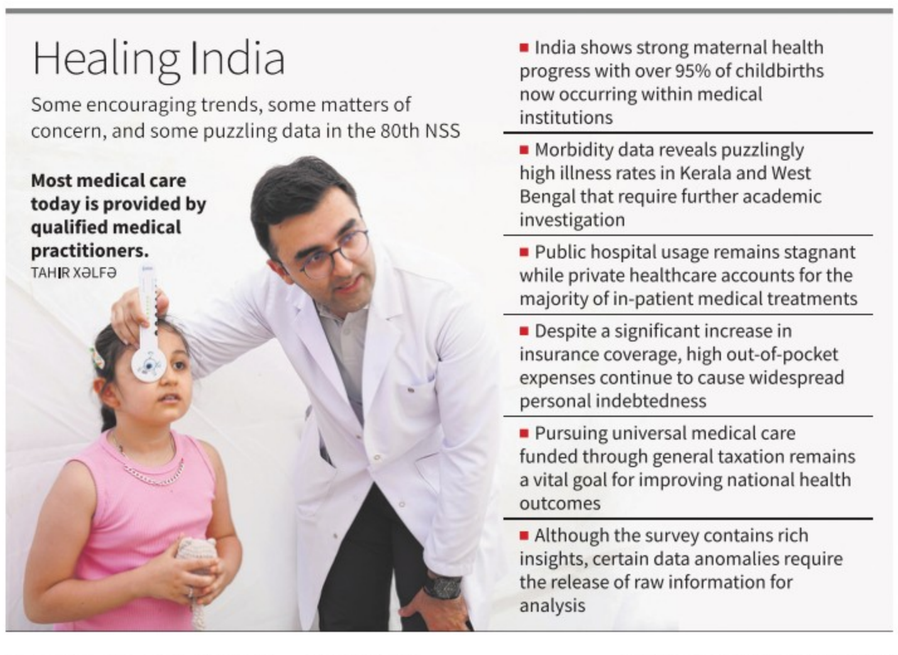
While industrial emissions are subject to rigorous monitoring, fugitive emissions from uncontrolled coal fires like in Jharia are seldom part of global greenhouse gas audits. However, the authors acknowledged their model excluded some real-world processes, including chemical reactions and mechanical deformation, that could alter the temperature estimate. Likewise, the emissions estimate depends strongly on assumptions about the extent of burning, among other factors.

How India uses healthcare: insights from the NSS

New data on health consumption in India show improvements in maternal care and insurance coverage, while also raising concerns about rising private healthcare costs, injury-related illnesses and inconsistencies in reported figures

George Thomas

The 80th round of the National Sample Survey on health consumption shows some encouraging trends, some matters of concern, and some puzzling data. The raw data, if made available, would be a rich resource to understand the way people perceive and manage their illnesses. The survey was based on a field questionnaire with the attendant problems of recall bias and understanding and estimation errors, among others.


Healing India
Some encouraging trends, some matters of concern, and some puzzling data in the 80th NSS
Most medical care today is provided by qualified medical practitioners.
TAHIR XƏLFƏ
India shows strong maternal health progress with over 95% of childbirths now occurring within medical institutions
Morbidity data reveals puzzlingly high illness rates in Kerala and West Bengal that require further academic investigation
Public hospital usage remains stagnant while private healthcare accounts for the majority of in-patient medical treatments
Despite a significant increase in insurance coverage, high out-of-pocket expenses continue to cause widespread personal indebtedness
Pursuing universal medical care funded through general taxation remains a vital goal for improving national health outcomes
Although the survey contains rich insights, certain data anomalies require the release of raw information for analysis

It is noteworthy that 98% of women reported receiving antenatal care and around 92% received postnatal care. Over 95% of childbirths now occur in institutions. Considering institutional childbirth is strongly associated with better outcomes for mother and child, this is heartening. The percentage of unskilled personnel attending childbirth is very low in nearly every State except Nagaland, where it is 13.5% in rural areas and 11.5% in urban areas. Deliveries taking place in private institutions account for nearly 51% in urban areas and 29% in rural areas nationwide, but at high costs: an all-India average of ₹37,630.

The morbidity data, collected for 62 ailments, tabulated and presented in 16 broad categories, shows a peculiarly high morbidity in Kerala, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh. In Kerala, it spans all age groups, while in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh high morbidity is seen in people older than 60. What explains this somewhat strange finding considering Kerala has better public health outcomes according to other data sources? Is it due to the perception of what illness is in different States or more stoic behaviour in some States? Or is it a data collection issue? This merits deeper research.

It is unsurprising that infections are common across all age groups, and lifestyle diseases such as diabetes mellitus and hypertension appear around age 40 and continue to increase thereafter. It is a matter of concern that injuries, a largely preventable problem, is the second or third highest cause of morbidity from the age of 15 onwards.

Around 35% of patients in urban areas and 25% in rural areas utilise government hospitals. Utilisation has not changed significantly compared to the 2017-2018 round, when it was 33% and 26% in urban and rural areas. Less than 1% of care is delivered by charitable hospitals.

The percentage of the population covered by insurance has increased remarkably. It was only 14% in rural areas and 19% in urban areas in the last survey, versus 47.4% in rural areas and 44.3% in urban areas now. Given the high out-of-pocket costs in private institutions for hospitalisations – the national average is ₹50,508 – and the fact that about 65% of in-hospital care is still privately accessed, insurance appears to have had limited impact. Even the lowest quintile of income earners pays around ₹25,000 for private care, which explains why treatment for illness is an important cause of indebtedness.

There used to be a time when government institutions treated patients without requiring insurance. Whatever was available was free at the point of service to any patient. Universal medical care funded through general taxation is a goal worth pursuing. Tamil Nadu presents the paradox of among the lowest out-of-pocket expenditure in government hospitals and, simultaneously, some of the highest costs for private care. It is also noteworthy that most medical care is provided by qualified medical practitioners, with only 3.6% of people in rural areas and 1.4% of people in urban areas reporting accessing care through informal medical practitioners. There is no disaggregation by type of qualified medical practitioner, although this information has been collected in the questionnaire, so it is not clear what percentage access modern medicine.

There are some problems with the data. For example, in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, average out-of-pocket medical expenditure in charitable hospitals (₹1.68 lakh and ₹1.51 lakh) far exceeds the average in private hospitals (₹72,979 and ₹55,389 respectively). As a rule, one expects that charitable hospitals will be less expensive. Some entries also seem to be erroneous: for instance, the entry of obstetrics under the 'male' category, since obstetrics pertains to pregnancy and childbirth, and a gastrointestinal entry in West Bengal of ₹7.84 lakh in Table A10 of the data. These anomalies require clarification.

There is rich data about people's perceptions of health care available for analysis and interpretation. The questionnaire attached as Appendix E in the data shows that considerably more data have been gathered than have been published. It would be an even more valuable resource if the raw data were released in the public domain.

(George Thomas is an orthopaedic surgeon in Chennai)

Why CBSE must re-think its on-screen marking system

DECODED

John Xavier

On May 13, CBSE declared Class 12 results, recording a three point drop in pass percentage to 85.20% from 88.39% last year. Several students, in effect, would have found themselves on the wrong side of the line compared to last year's cohort. The aggregate decline is sharp enough that it cannot be waved away with the usual "tougher papers this year" explanation.

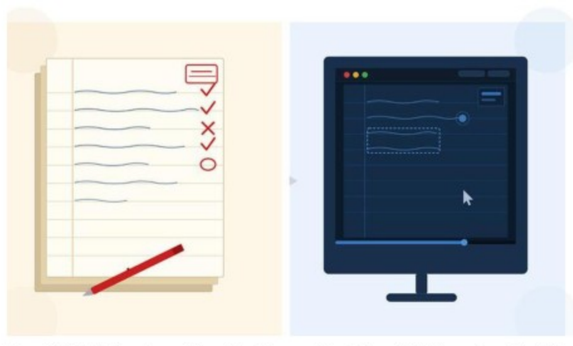
The CBSE introduced a new interface to score Class 12 answer papers – the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system, which was formally announced in a release on February 9. Under this system, physical answer sheets will be scanned, uploaded to a secure digital platform, and handed to evaluators who can assess them on computers, instead of on paper.

The move was positioned as a modernisation effort that will make the scoring process faster, more efficient, and more transparent.

Most of us assume that reading is reading, whether it happens on a printed page or a digital screen. This intuition may sound reasonable for a tweet or a news headline. But it starts falling apart the moment you start reading a long essay as the content demands you to track an argument, hold multiple points in mind simultaneously, and make holistic judgments about quality.

That is precisely what a Class 12 evaluator is asked to do, hundreds of times over, under time pressure.

A 2010 study, published in the British Journal of Educational Technology, examining whether marking mode influences reliability when evaluating extended essay scripts, found that while overall marker reliability was broadly similar across both modes, there was notably greater variability in on-screen marking compared to paper.



The CBSE introduced the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system for Class 12 evaluations. AI GENERATED

That study involved only twelve examiners marking relatively short essays, but the CBSE system involves lakhs of answer sheets, evaluated by tens of thousands of teachers, many of whom would be encountering this interface for evaluation for the very first time.

There are practical wrinkles, too. Legibility of handwritten answers depends enormously on scan quality.

A script that is perfectly readable in its original form can become a smudged, washed-out image on screen – making it harder for an examiner to give a fair reading, let alone a fair mark.

Screen fatigue is another major factor. And so is the cognitive overhead of navigating a new interface.

In 2017, when the board discontinued its marks moderation policy, it triggered a furore that forced a rethink.

The difference then was that the change came after exams. This time, the OSM switch was communicated before exams were conducted, which is marginally better. But communicating a change and preparing evaluators for it are two different things.

The time given to examiners to genuinely internalise a new interface, to get comfortable marking essays on a screen rather than circling answers on paper with a pen, appears to have been wholly inadequate.

What CBSE should have done, and what it still can do, before embedding this system further, is run a proper A/B evaluation. Take a statistically significant sample of answer sheets. Have one group evaluate on paper, another on screen. Compare not just final marks but the distribution of marks, the frequency of outliers, and the gap between lenient and strict evaluators.

That kind of empirical groundwork would tell you whether the system is working as intended.

A three-percentage-point drop in pass rates, in the very year a new evaluation system was introduced, is not proof of causation. There are other variables. Exam difficulty matters. Student preparedness matters.

The academic futures of millions of young people run through these marks as a Class 12 board score is a gate to college admissions, and scholarship eligibility that will shape entire trajectories for students from modest backgrounds.

The board has an obligation to demonstrate, rigorously and transparently, that its evaluation system is delivering fair outcomes. It should not treat modernisation as a virtue in itself, but find out whether that effort serves the people it is meant to serve.

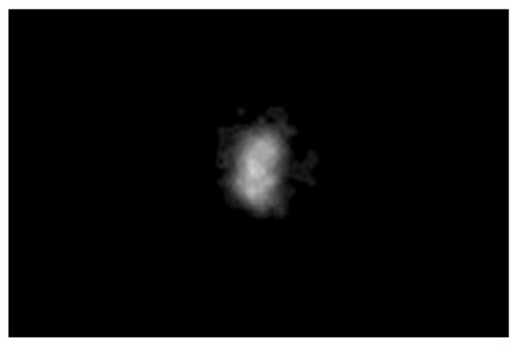
SNAPSHOTS

AI agents Co-Scientist, Robin could accelerate research

Google Co-Scientist and FutureHouse Robin, offer to help researchers accelerate science work. By generating and refining hypotheses, while scientists steered the process and gave feedback, Co-Scientist could identify drug combinations for leukaemia. Robin automated literature search and experiment planning, interpreting biological data and suggesting next steps while researchers performed the lab work. This way, the team found a promising treatment for macular degeneration.

Doubts arise over rock-based climate mitigation scheme

A climate mitigation strategy called 'enhanced alkalinity' involves spreading crushed rocks like silicates on land or in water. When the rocks dissolve, they release minerals that help the ocean absorb and hold CO2. Now, two researchers from New Zealand and the U.S. have reported a flaw: as the minerals travel from soil to the sea, they're often trapped in secondary minerals like clay, removing the alkalinity needed to store carbon and smothering the method's efficacy.



Neptune's moon Nereid may not be from the Kuiper Belt

Astronomers thought Neptune had captured its moon Nereid from the Kuiper Belt thanks to its unusual looping orbit. However, data from the James Webb Space Telescope suggests Nereid's chemical makeup doesn't match known Belt objects. It features crystalline water ice and a spectral signature. When the team modelled its history, they found Nepture's capture of its moon Triton could have caused gravitational chaos that 'kicked' Nereid into its orbit.

Question Corner

Undulating heat

Is a heatwave really a wave of heat?

A heatwave is not like a wave or pulse of heat travelling through the air. The name probably comes from the way a heatwave feels, as something that spreads, surges, and overwhelms before subsiding. Some meteorologists prefer the term "heat event" instead. For example, in April and May, the sun is almost directly overhead over most of peninsular India, and the ground heats for weeks. When a stable, high-pressure weather system settles over a part of the peninsula, air slowly sinks down from higher in the atmosphere. This suppresses the process that forms clouds, which allows sunlight to keep beating down. At this time, the peninsula also bears hot, dry continental winds from India's interior rather than from the seas. Finally, if the soil is dry, less heat goes into evaporating water and more into heating the air.

When these conditions persist for a few days, a heatwave can occur. This said, large undulations in the jet stream called Rossby waves can sometimes create high-pressure 'domes' of heat that stagnate over an area.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

How has the BCCI resisted RTI scrutiny?

Why does the body not qualify as a public authority? What does the CIC order say? What are the implications?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The Central Information Commission (CIC) on May 18 held that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) does not qualify as a "public authority" under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, and therefore cannot be directed to furnish information under the RTI Act.

What is the legal position?

The BCCI has maintained that it is a private and autonomous body and therefore does not qualify as a "public authority" under Section 2(h) of the RTI Act. The provision defines a "public authority" as "any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted" by the Constitution, laws enacted by Parliament or State legislatures, or through government notifications. It also includes entities that are "owned, controlled or substantially financed" by the government, including NGOs receiving substantial public funding. The cricket body has argued that, as an autonomous charitable society registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 (1975 Act), it does not fall within the ambit of 'State' under Article 12 of the Constitution. This Article includes within its scope the Union and State governments, legislatures, and "all local or other authorities" functioning within the territory of India or under government control.

What did expert bodies recommend earlier?

An earlier Bench of the CIC, headed by Information Commissioner M. Sridhar Acharyulu, had in 2018 held that the BCCI qualified as a public authority under the RTI Act and directed it to appoint Public Information Officers and establish an RTI compliance framework. The order was challenged by the BCCI before the Madras High Court, which remitted the matter to the CIC for fresh consideration in light of Supreme Court rulings holding that the cricket body did not fall within the ambit of the RTI Act. The CIC's May 18 decision was passed pursuant to this reconsideration.

The CIC held that the BCCI, being registered as "a private association of individuals", cannot be treated as a public authority under the RTI Act

Earlier, the Justice R.M. Lodha Committee, constituted by the Supreme Court in 2015 to recommend reforms within the BCCI, had described the cricket body's functioning as a "closed-door and back-room affair" and urged Parliament to "seriously" consider bringing it under the RTI Act. The Law Commission, too, in 2018, recommended that sports bodies discharging public functions be brought within the RTI regime. However, neither recommendation was translated into law.

What does the latest CIC order say?

The CIC held that the BCCI, being registered under the 1975 Act as "a private association of individuals", cannot be treated as a public authority under the RTI Act. It observed that the RTI regime does not extend to every entity "merely because they are registered under a statute", drawing a distinction between bodies created by law and those formed through private initiative and only later registered under a statutory framework. It noted that the BCCI was formed by cricket administrators and that registration under the 1975 Act merely grants legal recognition, not statutory status.

The Commission also relied on the Supreme Court's ruling in *Zee Telefilms Ltd. v. Union of India* (2005), which held that "mere supervision or regulation by the state is insufficient to alter the private character of the organisation". In that judgment, the apex court had observed that although the BCCI performs significant public functions in regulating cricket in India, it would not qualify as 'State' under Article 12 of the Constitution in the absence of deep and pervasive governmental control over its affairs.

On the issue of funding, the Commission observed that Section 2(h)(d) of the RTI Act covers bodies that are "substantially financed" by the government. However, it clarified that the term refers to financial assistance so significant that the entity's survival would depend on it, and not indirect benefits such as tax exemptions. The CIC held that the exemptions relied upon by the BCCI are uniformly available to non-profit organisations meeting the prescribed conditions under the Income Tax Act, 1961. It also pointed out that the BCCI generates massive revenues through media rights, sponsorships, and broadcasting deals.

What are the implications?

Bringing the BCCI within the RTI framework would have enabled citizens to seek information not only on its finances but also on its day-to-day functioning. Section 14(2) of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 provides that a recognised sports organisation would be treated as a public authority only "with respect to the utilisation of government grants or financial assistance" received by it. By making government funding the determining criterion, this provision effectively excludes the BCCI from the ambit of the RTI Act.

What did the SC say about bail under UAPA?

What are the disagreements between recent Supreme Court rulings on UAPA bail? Why is bail so difficult under Section 43D(5) of the UAPA? What did the Court say in K.A. Najeeb about prolonged incarceration and bail? What role does Article 21 play in UAPA bail jurisprudence?

Krishnadas Rajagopal

The story so far:

On May 22, the Supreme Court granted six months of interim bail to two accused in the 2020 Delhi riots case – Abdul Khalid Saifi and Tasleem Ahmad. It also referred to a larger Bench the question of whether prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can override the stringent bail curbs under anti-terror laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA). This particular law empowers the Centre to designate not only organisations but also individuals as 'terrorists'.

What concerns did the Court raise about UAPA bail rulings by smaller Benches?

A three-judge Bench in the 2021 judgment, *Union of India v. K.A. Najeeb*, had settled the principle that an undertrial cannot be made to indefinitely wait behind bars for completion of trial, however grave the offence may be.

On May 18, a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan in *Syed Iftikhar Andrabi v. National Investigation Agency*, voiced serious reservations about smaller Benches "hollowing out" the principle laid down in the *Najeeb* verdict – that constitutional courts must intervene and grant bail in UAPA cases in which accused persons had spent years in pre-trial incarceration.

Justice Bhuyan, who authored the judgment, questioned the Supreme Court judgment of January 5, 2026 (*Gulfisha Fatima v. State, Government of NCT Delhi*), which denied bail to former JNU student leader Umar Khalid and his co-accused Sharjeel Imam, who were charged under the UAPA in the Delhi riots 'larger conspiracy' case. While granting five others bail, a Division Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N.V. Anjaria had denied the two of them relief, prima facie acknowledging that they were the "alleged masterminds". Mr. Khalid had already spent over five years in jail.

The *Najeeb* verdict was the Court's response to the growing use of Section 43D(5) as a weapon in the hands of the state

Justice Bhuyan's remarks prompted the Delhi Police to raise objections before Justice Kumar, the author of the *Gulfisha Fatima* verdict, during the bail hearing of Mr. Saifi and Mr. Ahmed.

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju argued the *Andrabi* judgment had muddied the bail waters in UAPA cases. He rhetorically asked whether Ajmal Kasab – or Hafiz Saeed, if extradited from Pakistan – would also be entitled to bail merely because they had spent five years in prison awaiting trial.

Justice Kumar referred the question of law to a larger Bench, saying that a "perceived conflict" between two coordinate Benches (of equal strengths) of the Court did not need expressions of "serious reservation", but "resolution".

Why is bail so difficult under Section 43D(5) of the UAPA?

The section makes securing bail under the UAPA difficult. The proviso to it mandates that an accused person will not get bail if a court, on perusing the case diary or chargesheet, found "reasonable grounds" to believe that the accusations were prima facie true.

The apex court's 2019 judgment in *National Investigation Agency v. Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali* saw a Division Bench headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar (now retired and currently serving as chairperson of the Lokpal) hold that an "elaborate examination" of evidence was not necessary for a court to establish prima facie guilt. The court was merely required to glance through "broad probabilities" to decide if the allegations were true, and deny bail.

Section 43D(5) turned bail jurisprudence on its head. The normal presumption of 'bail, not jail' was reversed. While ordinary bail jurisprudence was rooted in the fundamental principle that a person was innocent until proven guilty, Section 43D(5) turned the burden onto the accused, supposing the person to be guilty until found innocent.

How did the *K.A. Najeeb* judgment soften the bail bar?

The *Najeeb* verdict was the Court's response to the growing use of Section 43D(5) as a weapon in the hands of the state. For incarcerated accused persons with limited financial and legal resources, disproving terror charges becomes an uphill battle even as the prospect of trial recedes with passing years. It was in this context that the *Najeeb* judgment, authored by Justice Surya Kant (as he was then), clarified that constitutional courts could "melt down" the rigour of Section 43D(5) and grant bail to a UAPA accused who had already spent a "substantial period of time" in jail due to gross delay in trial.

The *Najeeb* verdict quoted precedents to hold that constitutional courts cannot become mute spectators before the power of Section 43D(5). They had to intervene to protect the fundamental right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.

What did the Court clarify in the *Andrabi* verdict about Section 43D(5) and Article 21?

In the *Andrabi* judgment, Justice Bhuyan said the Court must not play ball to the Centre's argument that the gravity of offences under UAPA outweighed the human right to bail. The judge pointed out that the conviction rate under UAPA was only 2-6% across the country.

Justices Nagarathna and Bhuyan observed that an undertrial cannot be punished with denial of bail for the state's ineptitude to hold a trial on time. If the alleged offence was a serious one, it was all the more necessary for the prosecution to conclude the trial expeditiously. Bail cannot be denied solely on the ground that the charges were very serious.

The *Andrabi* judgment said the Supreme Court in *Gulfisha Fatima* case read *Najeeb* judgment wrong when it said the three-judge Bench had created an automatic entitlement to bail on account of delay. Justice Bhuyan clarified that the *Najeeb* verdict had never advanced the proposition that bail should be given in every UAPA case of prolonged incarceration. Rather, *Najeeb* case only cautioned constitutional courts against treating the statutory embargo under Section 43D(5) as the sole justification for continued detention while ignoring broader constitutional principles of personal liberty and speedy trial. It held that Section 43D(5) was subordinate to Article 21.

Did the *Gulfisha Fatima* judgment stray from the 'binding precedent' of *Najeeb* verdict?

The May 22 order, referring the question of bail in UAPA to a larger Bench, argued that the *Andrabi* judgment had misunderstood the reasoning behind the *Gulfisha Fatima* verdict. It said the judgment, which had denied bail to Mr. Khalid and Mr. Imam, had correctly applied the *Najeeb* principle. It said the *Najeeb* judgment had appreciated the strict bail regime of Section 43D(5) while advising relaxation only in cases in which there was no likelihood of completion of trial within the reasonable time and the accused had already spent a long time behind bars.

The May 22 order took pains to clarify that the *Gulfisha Fatima* judgment accepted the *Najeeb* judgment as a binding precedent. It had recognised the central place of Article 21 in the constitutional scheme and that pre-trial incarceration cannot assume the character of punishment in UAPA cases. It said that the two were denied bail on an "accused-specific evaluation" based on factors such as the evidence, their roles in the alleged conspiracy, and the need to protect the integrity of the trial.

Activist Umar Khalid being detained by the Delhi Police for defying prohibitory orders during the anti-CAA protests at Red Fort in New Delhi in 2019. PTI

Why did Kerala scrap the SilverLine project?

What was the project and why was it projected as a game-changer for Kerala's transport sector? Why did the land acquisition process trigger protests? What processes were put in place to acquire land? What were the concerns over the project?

Hiran Unnikrishnan

The story so far:

On May 20, the United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala decided to denotify the SilverLine semi-high speed rail corridor, championed by the previous Left Democratic Front administration. Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan said that the government was not against high speed rail development as such, but that the SilverLine project was both "an environmental disaster" and "financially unviable". He also announced that all the police cases registered against those opposing the project would be withdrawn.

What was the SilverLine project and why was it projected as a game-changer for Kerala's transport sector?

The SilverLine project, estimated at ₹64,000 crore, was designed as a semi-high speed rail corridor connecting Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod over 530 km. Its objective was to cut travel time from nearly 12 hours to about four. The project was to be implemented by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation (K-Rail), a joint venture between the State government and Indian Railways in a 51:49 equity partnership.

As the proposed corridor cut through ecologically fragile areas, experts warned that massive embankments could disrupt drainage patterns and worsen flooding during monsoon

K-Rail was created in January 2017 to fast-track railway infrastructure development in the State. In 2021, the Kerala Cabinet granted in-principle approval for the SilverLine project and sanctioned some ₹2,100 crore to be raised through the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for land acquisition.

The proposed line was a standard gauge corridor, planned largely parallel to the existing railway network and mostly elevated on embankments. It envisaged trains running at speeds up to 200 kmph, with nine-coach rakes carrying around 675 passengers and serving 11 stations along the route.

Why did the land acquisition process trigger such intense public outrage?

The project required the acquisition of around 1,221 hectares of land and was expected to affect more than 9,300 structures, potentially displacing nearly 20,000 people. Residents in several regions complained of officials arriving to place survey stones without prior notice. Allegations of heavy-handed enforcement during surveys in places such as Kozhuvalloor near Chengannur and Madappally near Changanassery fuelled tensions.

By October 2021, authorities had laid around 1,651 survey stones across 42.6 km in 14 villages under tight police protection. Protests, stone removals, police deployment, and legal action followed. The protests soon snowballed into a State-wide movement backed by Opposition parties, particularly the Congress.

What legal and administrative mechanisms were put in place to acquire land?

In August 2021, special tahsildar offices were set up across districts to oversee the process, followed by survey notices under the Kerala Survey and Boundaries Act, 1961 and acquisition proceedings under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. But the process turned controversial. Land parcels marked for acquisition were effectively frozen, leaving thousands of residents unable to sell, mortgage, or develop their properties for months. The project's social impact assessment and acquisition procedures were challenged in courts. Faced with mounting resistance, the government unveiled a ₹13,265 crore compensation package in 2022, which promised up to four times the market value of land along with housing assistance. Critics, however, argued that this would further strain Kerala's finances. Despite these assurances, protests continued, and the government attempted to resume surveys using geospatial technology.

What were the concerns over the technical and financial viability of the project?

First, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) projected a daily ridership of 80,000 passengers and annual revenue of ₹1,605 crore based on a fare of ₹2.75 per km, which many considered optimistic. Second, technical concerns also mounted over the decision to adopt standard gauge instead of the conventional broad gauge network. Engineers flagged the alignment, pointing to hundreds of sharp horizontal and vertical curves that could limit sustained semi-high-speed operations. Third, while the DPR pegged the project cost at around ₹63,000 crore, a NITI Aayog assessment reportedly placed it closer to ₹1.25 lakh crore. Fourth, as the proposed corridor cut through ecologically fragile wetlands, bird habitats, and flood prone regions, experts warned that massive embankments could disrupt drainage patterns and worsen flooding during monsoon. Finally, the Railways did not grant final approval to the project, citing incompatibility with existing infrastructure and concerns over future expansion of the national network.

What does the shelving of SilverLine mean for the future of K-Rail?

K-Rail is currently executing projects worth about ₹5,540 crore, including 66 railway overbridges, station modernisation at Thiruvananthapuram and Varkala, automatic signalling on the Ernakulam-Vallathol Nagar section, and implementation of the 'Kavach' train safety system. It also serves as consultant for KIIFB flyovers, Smart City projects, Kerala State Road Transport Corporation ticketing systems, and the Kochi Metro Phase II DPR, indicating that while the SilverLine project has been shelved, the institutional framework built around it remains active.

People protest in 2022 against the project by blocking the vehicle carrying a survey stone at Thazhuthala in Kollam. C. SURESHKUMAR

PROFILES

The old man and the siege

Raul Castro

The Trump administration, which has imposed a punishing blockade on Cuba, has indicted the 94-year old former revolutionary leader and President, in a replay of the farcical accusations that led to the U.S. abduction of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro early this year

Srinivasan Ramani

Earlier this month, after months of strangling life in Cuba by blockading fuel supplies, the Trump administration moved to indict the 94-year-old former President Raul Castro Ruz over the 1996 shootdown of two civilian aircraft over the Florida Straits. Mr. Castro was then the Defence Minister of Cuba. The then President and Raul's brother, Fidel Castro, had publicly taken responsibility for the attack, which killed four, in what Havana said was its own airspace.

While sections of the U.S. media invariably describe the shootdown of the 'Brothers to the Rescue' – the group that flew the aircraft towards Cuba – as an unprovoked murder, records show the group indulged in significant provocation. Its founder Jose Basulto, a Cuban emigre and veteran of the failed, covert U.S.-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961, told *The Atlantic* he had been "trained as a terrorist" by the U.S. The 'Brothers' had repeatedly flown into Cuban airspace to drop anti-government leaflets, seeking what Basulto described as "confrontation". Cuba had warned the U.S. authorities; on the day of the shootdown, Cuban air controllers warned the pilots off, and Basulto replied: "We are ready to do it. It is our right as free Cubans."

The immediate outcome was a tightening of the U.S. embargo – in place since 1962 and what Havana has always termed an economic blockade – most notably through the Helms-Burton Act passed barely three weeks after the shootdown. But it is for this 30-year-old incident that Raul Castro is being charged, in a replay of the farcical accusations that led to the U.S.'s abduction of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro early this year.

Why has a frail 94-year-old, by many accounts weak of hearing and slow of speech, found himself in the crosshairs of a Trump administration once again? It is worth knowing the biography of a remarkable revolutionary long overshadowed by his charismatic elder brother, Fidel.

Raul Castro was born in Biran, eastern Cuba, in 1931 – the youngest of three brothers their landowning father sent to school together. Fidel, in *My Life*, tells the journalist Ignacio Ramonet that he practically raised Raul during their school years. But Raul's politics were his own. As a law student at Havana University he joined the youth wing of the Popular Socialist Party (PSP) – Cuba's main communist party at the time – and travelled to a Soviet-organised youth congress in Vienna in 1953.

'Rank-and-file combatant'

When Fidel, along with other Orthodox Party (left nationalists) members, laid out the plan to attack the Moncada barracks as a first step to overthrow the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship, Raul signed on. Raul went in as a "rank-and-file combatant" (in Fidel's words). When his unit was cornered, Raul managed to turn the surrounding soldiers themselves into his prisoners, saving his men from torture and execution. He was eventually caught and imprisoned with Fidel on the Isle of Pines. On release, the brothers left for Mexico, where Raul first met the Argentine doctor Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, whom he introduced to Fidel.

Along with Che and an 80-strong rebel force, Fidel boarded the yacht *Granma* to launch a guerrilla-style insurrection in December 1956, only to be attacked by Batista's troops three days after landing and reduced to a handful of survivors. Two weeks later, Raul caught up with his brother's group in the Sierra Maestra, carrying five rifles to add to Fidel's two – prompting Fidel's famous declaration: "Now we can win this war".

Out of that nucleus the rebels slowly built columns and bases across eastern Cuba. By March 1958, Raul was given his own command – the Second Eastern Front 'Frank Pais', in the mountains north of Santiago. At just 26, he ran not only a military front but a rudimentary state apparatus. When his front came under aerial attack, he retaliated by kidnapping U.S. citizens working in the area – drawing international attention and forcing a halt to the air raids. Fidel would later call Raul's Second Front "strategic" to the war's outcome.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

When the Revolution triumphed in January 1959, Raul became Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, a post he would hold for 49 years. He is credited with building a state from a guerrilla army – purging the Batista officer corps, raising the National Revolutionary Militias and building Cuba's defence forces. He helped lead the defence at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 and was sent to Moscow during the October 1962 Cuban missile crisis with a hand-written military agreement that was accepted by Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev. Through the 1970s and 1980s, Raul oversaw what became Cuba's largest overseas deployment – internationalist forces to Angola in support of the MPLA government of Agostinho Neto against South African intervention. The 15-year engagement ultimately forced Pretoria to the negotiating table and helped accelerate the end of apartheid in southern Africa – a contribution acknowledged by none other than Nelson Mandela.

If the 1980s were a test of Raul's military thinking, the 1990s challenged his organisational skills on a far larger scale. Following the collapse of Cuba's main economic benefactor, the USSR, he played a key role in addressing the resulting crisis. He turned the FAR into an economic institution, declaring that "beans are worth more than cannons", and put it to work in agriculture. Out of these reforms grew the military's commercial conglomerate Grupo de Administracion Empresarial S.A. (GAESA), which over the last two decades has become a behemoth controlling vast tracts of the Cuban economy.

Short-lived thaw

Today, GAESA has been explicitly targeted by the Trump administration – yet another turn in U.S.-Cuba relations, which had briefly thawed before Mr. Trump first came to power.

That thaw came under Raul's presidency, which began formally in 2008 after he had already taken the reins in 2006 when Fidel fell ill.

Under President Barack Obama's second term, Raul worked towards the thaw leading to the announcement of December 17, 2014, when the two leaders simultaneously declared the restoration of full diplomatic ties after more than five decades of estrangement. The embargo remained in place, but restrictions on travel and remittances were eased. The opening proved short-lived. Under the first Trump administration, much of it was rolled back, the embargo tightened, and Cuba redesignated a "state sponsor of terrorism".

Today, with the January 2026 executive order branding Cuba "an unusual and extraordinary threat" to U.S. national security, the fuel blockade choking daily life, the Pentagon reportedly drafting plans for military action, and now an indictment against Raul, all indications point to a naked attempt to bring down by force a state that the U.S. has long sought to upend through other means.

Cubans have marked the indictment with rallies in Havana in solidarity with their veteran revolutionary leader, who, despite being long dismissed by detractors as merely Fidel's brother, remains a deputy of the National Assembly and a defining figure of the Cuban state following the 1959 Revolution.

THE GIST

When Fidel Castro, along with other Orthodox Party (left nationalists) members, laid out the plan to attack the Moncada barracks as a first step to overthrow the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship, Raul signed on

By March 1958, Raul was given his own command — the Second Eastern Front 'Frank Pais', in the mountains north of Santiago, during the civil war

When the Revolution triumphed in January 1959, Raul became Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, a post he would hold for 49 years

A deadly pathogen

Bundibugyo ebolavirus

The strain that causes an often-fatal viral haemorrhagic fever is the primary causative agent in the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda

Ramya Kannan

REUTERS

At the heart of the current outbreak of Ebola in Central Africa is a quirky name –Bundibugyo. The less-known Bundibugyo ebolavirus strain that causes an often-fatal viral haemorrhagic fever is the primary causative agent in the outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda. While related to the more common Zaire ebolavirus and the Sudan ebolavirus, there have been only two documented Bundibugyo-related outbreaks (Uganda in 2007, and another in the DRC in 2012). Currently, there are no vaccines or specific therapies against it, though efforts are on to fast-track the development of a vaccine.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared with unusual alacrity, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) even bypassing conventional consultations with expert bodies to do so. Soon after the DRC and Ugandan governments declared an outbreak of Ebola, on May 15, the WHO announced a PHEIC.

The name Bundibugyo comes from the days when pathogens used to be named after the places they were discovered in, though that naming convention is no longer considered fashionable. It was first identified in 2007 in the Bundibugyo district of western Uganda. Bundibugyo, in the Western Region of Uganda, bordering the DRC, is the headquarters of the Bwamba Kingdom. After a mysterious illness broke out in 2007, the Bundibugyo ebolavirus was identified in diagnostic samples submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, U.S., in November 2007, according to a 2010 article in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*.

Previously documented Bundibugyo outbreaks have reportedly had case fatality rates of 30% and 50% – more or less the same fatality rate as the more common Zaire ebolavirus strain that caused havoc in Africa between 2014 and 2016. While this has caused fears that the virus is probably as deadly, the extra concern is because the outbreak has started in a conflict-ridden area, making case detection and contact tracing difficult and access to care uneven.

As of May 21, 2026, a total of 83 confirmed cases, including nine deaths, and 746 suspected cases, including 176 deaths, have been reported from 15 health zones in the DRC. Four health worker deaths have been reported to date. An American national who was working in the DRC as a surgeon has also been confirmed to have Ebola, reportedly having been exposed to the virus during a procedure he performed on May 11. He is being treated in isolation in Germany.

Similar symptoms

According to an article in the *Scientific American*, the symptoms of an infection with the Bundibugyo virus resemble those of other orthoebolaviruses. Early on, they include an intense headache, high fever, body ache and fatigue. This is known as the "dry symptoms", but as the infection progresses, people can develop "wet symptoms" or intense vomiting and diarrhoea, which can become life-threatening. It further says: the viruses are also known to cause hemorrhagic fever, infecting specific immune cells and triggering a massive inflammatory response that can lead to internal bleeding and organ failure.

Efforts are in place to improve identification of persons with suspected infection, trace their contacts, contain the spread of infection and make sure that everyone with the symptoms receives appropriate care at a health facility.

Meanwhile, the WHO has raised the public risk from the Ebola outbreak in DRC from 'high' to 'very high'. The scheduled India-Africa Forum Summit has been cancelled due to the ongoing crisis. British media has reported that scientists at Oxford University are working on developing a new vaccine to tackle the Bundibugyo strain, and that it might be ready for clinical trials in two or three months. Additionally, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a global partnership working to accelerate the development of vaccines and other biologicals, has claimed that it is working at pace with partners, including Africa CDC, WHO and national authorities, to identify opportunities to rapidly advance vaccine development.

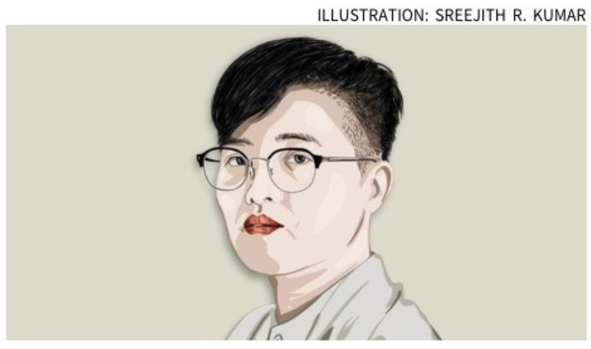
Daughter of the soil

Yang Shuang-zi

The Taiwanese author, who won this year's International Booker Prize, says literature cannot be separated from politics

Radhika Santhanam

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



Yang Shuang-zi first developed the idea for her genre-bending novel, *Taiwan Travelogue*, in 2017. In an interview on the Booker Prizes website, she says she formally began work on the book in February 2019 and completed the first draft by August the same year. Each chapter in it is named after a Taiwanese dish – roasted seeds, jute soup, beef and vegetable hotpot, leftovers soup, and so on. "Research for the novel's central themes of travel and food changed my life in two obvious ways: my savings went down; my weight went up," she joked.

When she went on stage with her translator, the Taiwanese-American, Lin King, to jointly receive the £50,000 International Booker Prize for 2026 at Tate Modern in London last week, King quipped that Yang had cake on her hands, a detail which "epitomises this whole book". *Taiwan Travelogue*, published by And Other Stories, is the first English translation of Yang's work and has catapulted her to literary fame. She is the first Taiwanese writer to win the International Booker Prize.

Yang was born Yang Jo-tzu in 1984 in a village near Taichung, Central Taiwan. She adopted the pen name 'Shuang-zi', meaning twins, in memory of her twin sister, Yang Jo-hui, who died of cancer in 2015. As a child, she developed a love for books especially after reading Akira Toriyama's *Dragon Ball*, which sparked her lifelong passion for Manga. In the 1990s, Yang dove into the romance novels and queer literature that flourished in her country. She also grew fascinated with yuri, a subculture in Japan that focuses on intimate relationships between women.

Taiwan Travelogue is set in 1938 – a few decades before Yang was born – when Taiwan was under Japanese rule. It follows a Japanese novelist, Aoyama Chizuko, on a government-sponsored trip. She decides to explore Taiwan through its food, guided by her "monstrous appetite". She befriends a charming Taiwanese woman, Chizuru, who is her interpreter and also an extraordinary cook. Chizuko becomes infatuated with her, but Chizuru maintains a distance. Whether Chizuru returns Chizuko's feelings is the question that propels the novel forward.

Complexity of power

Their relationship – shaped by their different class backgrounds, with one woman a 'Mainlander' and the other an 'Islander' – reflects the complex dynamics of power.

Yang has said in interviews that she wanted to write a historical novel from a female perspective. *Taiwan Travelogue* is also her attempt, she said, to "help them [Taiwanese] dissect the complicated emotion" they have towards the period of Japanese colonialism.

Yang, who is also a writer of Manga, video game scripts, and fiction, was awarded Taiwan's highest literary honour, the Golden Tripod Award, for the original Mandarin Chinese version of *Taiwan Travelogue*, published in 2020.

Lin King's English-language translation won the National Book Award for Translated Literature in 2024. Now, the book has been published, or is slated for publication, in several languages including Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Ukrainian, Italian, German, Dutch, Danish, and Greek. It is not available in the People's Republic of China, though Yang told *The Observer* that some of her Chinese friends bought copies and quietly smuggled them into the country. She also expressed a wish that the Chinese would read it and come to realise that the Taiwanese are culturally, and therefore nationally, a distinct population. "Some of us believe ourselves to be Chinese and then others believe that we are Taiwanese, and I wanted to express that somehow through my book," she told *The Guardian*.

On receiving the prize, Yang made it clear that she does not believe that art and literature must be kept far from politics. "I believe that literature cannot be separated from the soil in which it has grown," she said during her speech at Tate Modern. She found the right translator in King, who told the audience that following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, she made the "explicit decision that rather than translating Sinophile works indiscriminately", she would "only translate writing from Taiwan in the foreseeable future".

KYIV

Ukrainians protest in Kyiv against Bill declaring missing soldiers dead

REUTERS

Hundreds of Ukrainians marched through the capital on Friday to demand that the government repeal a recent law that families of missing soldiers say could lead to their loved ones being prematurely declared dead. More than 90,000 people are listed as missing in Ukraine's unified registry of persons who disappeared. AP

UNITED NATIONS

Nuclear nonproliferation talks in UN conclude without agreement

AP

A four-week UN conference reviewing the treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons ended on Friday without agreement as the U.S. and Iran sparred over Iran's nuclear programme. Vietnam's UN Ambassador Do Hung Viet announced there was no consensus among the 191 parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. AP

LAHORE

13 militants, mostly from banned outfit TTP, arrested in Pakistan

AFP

A major terror attack has been foiled by police in Pakistan's Punjab province and 13 militants, mostly belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), have been arrested, a spokesperson for the Counter Terrorism Department said. Explosive materials, eight detonators and four IED bombs were recovered. PTI

PARIS

France bans Itamar Ben-Gvir after 'unspeakable' flotilla activist taunts

AFP

France on Saturday banned Israel's far-right National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, citing his "unspeakable" behaviour targeting activists from a flotilla to Gaza who were detained by his police force. Poland has also barred Mr. Ben-Gvir, announcing a five-year-ban on Thursday. AP

Green Card seekers must apply from home countries: U.S. govt.

The policy reverses a long-standing practice that allowed many non-immigrants to complete green card processing while remaining in the United States; USCIS frames the change as a return to 'the original intent of the law' and closing a 'loophole'

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The Trump govt. says non-immigrants should not use a temporary visit as the first step toward permanent residence. ISTOCKPHOTO

Foreigners in the U.S. who want a green card will need to leave and apply in their home country, the Trump administration announced on Friday, in a surprise change to a longstanding policy that sowed confusion and concern among aid groups, immigration lawyers and immigrants.

For over half a century, foreign nationals with legal status have been able to apply for and complete the entire process for permanent residence in the United States – including individuals married to U.S. citizens, holders of work and student visas, and refugees and political asylum seekers, among others.

The announcement from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said foreigners who are in the U.S. temporarily and who want to apply to become lawful permanent residents, or green card holders, have to return home and apply there, except in "extraordinary circumstances". USCIS officers would decide whether applicants meet those.

"Non-immigrants, like students, temporary workers, or people on tourist visas, come to the U.S. for a short time and for a specific purpose. Our system is designed for them to leave when their visit is over. Their visit should not function as the first step in the Green Card process," the agency said in a statement.

"The goal of this policy is very explicit. Senior officials in this administration have said over and over that they want fewer people to get permanent residency because permanent residency is a path to citizenship and they want to block that path for as many people as possible," said Doug Rand, a former senior adviser at USCIS during the Biden administration.

USCIS did not say when the change would come into effect, whether individuals would be required to remain in another country throughout the entire process, or whether the policy impacts foreigners whose green card applications are already under way.

The changes come on top of steps the administration has already taken to restrict and limit entry for people from dozens of countries.

USCIS described the change as a return to "the original intent of the law" and closing a "loophole".

China coal mine blast kills at least 90, more missing

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Rescue workers prepare to descend into the Liushenyu coal mine following an explosion, in Shanxi province on Saturday. AP

A gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China has killed at least 90 people, state media reported on Saturday, the country's biggest mining disaster in 17 years.

A total of 247 workers were underground at the time of the blast, which occurred at 7.29 p.m. on Friday at the Liushenyu coal mine in Shanxi province, according to state news agency *Xinhua*.

At least 90 people had died and 123 others were sent to hospital for treatment, four of whom were in critical or severe condition, state broadcaster *CCTV* said. Of those sent for treatment, 33 had returned home as of 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, it added.

A total of 755 emergency and medical personnel were dispatched to the site, with rescue efforts still ongoing Saturday afternoon, *CCTV* said.

Friday's explosion was the worst mining disaster in China since 2009, when 108 people were killed in a mine blast in northeast Heilongjiang province.

President Xi Jinping urged "all-out efforts" to treat the injured and called for thorough investigations into the incident, according to *Xinhua*.

China's government launched an "uncompromising" investigation into the explosion, vowing to severely punish those responsible, and ordered a nationwide crackdown on illegal mining activities, *Xinhua* said.

18 dead in Ukrainian air strike on college in Russia-held town

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The death toll from a Ukrainian strike on a college and its dormitory in a Russia-held town in eastern Ukraine has risen to 18, Russian officials said on Saturday.

Launched overnight on Thursday to Friday, one of the deadliest Ukrainian drone barrages in months also wounded 42 in Starobilsk of the Luhansk region, with some still remaining under the debris.

Ukraine denied targeting civilians and said it had hit a Russian drone unit stationed in the Starobilsk area.

Russia's Emergency Ministry said that "two more bodies have been recovered from under the rubble. In total: 60 victims, of whom 18 have died."

Most of those killed and missing were young women born between 2003 and 2008, according to a list of casualties published by the Moscow-backed governor of the region.

Iran, U.S. say close to talks breakthrough as Pak. Army chief Munir lands in Tehran

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Senior U.S. and Iranian officials said on Saturday they could be close to a breakthrough in talks to strike a draft deal, while remaining cautious about the chances of ending the war in the West Asia.

U.S. President Donald Trump told *CBS* in a phone interview on Saturday that the two sides were "getting a lot closer" to a deal, but also warned that if they do not reach an agreement "we're going to have a situation where no country will ever be hit as hard as they're about to be hit".

Diplomatic efforts: Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi with Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir, in Tehran, late on Friday. AFP

Iran said gaps remain between the parties, and the dispute over its nuclear programme would not be part of the initial talks, but that it was finalising a 14-point framework for a deal.

Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir arrived in Tehran on Friday to bolster mediation and Mr. Trump abruptly changed his plans to skip his son's wedding to stay in Washington due to "circumstances pertaining to government", fuelling speculation that the situation had entered a sensitive stage.

Gen. Munir landed in Tehran on Friday where he met with Mr. Araghchi late into the night to discuss "the latest diplomatic efforts and initiatives aimed at preventing further escalation".

Taiwan says China deployed more than 100 vessels in waters

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

Taiwan security officials said on Saturday that China has deployed more than 100 navy, coast guard and other vessels in regional waters stretching from the Yellow Sea to the South China Sea and Western Pacific.

The deployment began before U.S. President Donald Trump's meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Beijing and increased to more than 100 after the summit ended, a security official said.

In a post on X, Taiwan National Security Council chief Joseph Wu shared a map dated May 23 showing "China's Maritime Deployment", with Chinese navy and coast guard ships dotted from the Yellow Sea off the Korean Peninsula to the South China Sea and in the Western Pacific.

It is not clear what the vessels are doing, but Chinese navy and coast guard vessels have previously trained in these waters.

Sport

Keymer wins title; Pragg holds Giri

CHESS

Press Trust of India
BUCHAREST

GM R. Praggnanandhaa ended his campaign with an easy draw against Anish Giri while Vincent Keymer crushed Jorden Van Foreest to clinch the Super Chess Classic title here on Saturday.

Keymer entered the final round in joint lead with Fabiano Caruana and ended on six points. Caruana finished second on 5.5 after a draw with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave.

Wesley So played an easy draw with Javokhir Sindarov to end joint third with the later on five points. It was a five-way tie thereafter with Praggnanandhaa, Giri, Foreest, Vachier-Lagrave and Deac Bogdan-Daniel on 4.5.

Vincent Keymer.
FLICKR/GRANDCHESSTOUR

The results (final round):
Keymer (6) bt Foreest (4.5); Giri (4.5) drew with Praggnanandhaa (4.5); So (5) drew with Sindarov (5); Vachier-Lagrave (4.5) drew with Caruana (5.5); Deac (4.5) w/o Firouzja (1).

It's Zuccaro vs. Siege Courageous

BENGALURU: Zuccaro and Siege Courageous may fight out the finish of the H.H. Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Cup (1,400m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Sunday (May 24).
False rails (width about 2.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 BEAUTIFUL BABE PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.00 p.m.: 1. Conquistador (7) Darshan 56, 2. Ibadath (6) Suraj 56, 3. Knightsbridge (1) Sandesh 56, 4. Stud Poker (3) Antony 56, 5. Bellucci (5) Arvind K 54.5, 6. Shutterfly (2) Trevor 54.5 and 7. Valor Queen (4) G. Vivek 54.5.
1. STUD POKER, 2. IBADATH

2 MINISTERIAL PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.30: 1. Arminiius (1) Sandesh 56, 2. Atman (3) Mukesh K 56, 3. Nimbus Speed (8) Suraj 56, 4. Everynne (5) Trevor 54.5, 5. First Choice (6) Arul J.H 54.5, 6. Garzian (7) A. Prakash 54.5, 7. Portieux (2) Neeraj 54.5 and 8. Sai Princess (4) Jagadeesh 54.5.
1. ATMAN, 2. NIMBUS SPEED, 3. PORTIEUX

3 PENDRAGON PLATE (Div. II), 1,200m, rated 20 to 45, 3.00: 1. Zephyrine (1) Pavan 60, 2. Blind Faith (7) A.S. Peter 55, 3. LG's Star (3) Jagadeesh 55, 4. Paradoxical (8) Akshay K 54.5, 5. Annabelle (6) Antony 54, 6. The Make Sure (2) Ashhad Asbar 53, 7. Alpha Legend (5) M. Rajesh K 52.5 and 8. Hold Your Breath (4) Kiran Rai 52.
1. ANNABELLE, 2. THE MAKE SURE, 3. ZEPHYRINE

4 ALEKONA PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 3.30: 1. Star Of India (5) Aleemuddin 60, 2. Glorious Strides (8) Suraj 59.5, 3. Absolute Force (7) Arul J.H 58.5, 4. Shahenshaah (4) Sai Kiran 58.5, 5. Sundance Kid (6) R. Pradeep 55.5, 6. Stalingrad (3) L.A. Rozario 53, 7. Azalea (1) A. Prakash 52.5, 8. Santorius (9) Vinod Shinde 52.5 and 9. Gallon Of My Love (2) M. Rajesh K 50.5.
1. GLORIOUS STRIDES, 2. STAR OF INDIA, 3. STALINGRAD

5 V.T. VELU MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4.00: 1. Bezawada Sultan (6) S. Sachin 61, 2. Aquamatic (5) Salman Khan 57.5, 3. Battle Lass (1) Laxman S 57.5, 4. Small Dreams (7) Mukesh K 55, 5. Win Win (2) D. Patel 55, 6. Fortis (8) Shreyas S 54, 7. La Mcqueen (3) Aleemuddin 54 and 8. Eternal Glory (4) G. Praveen 53.5.
1. SMALL DREAMS, 2. LA MCQUEEN, 3. FORTIS

6 H.H. JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR CUP (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4.30: 1. Duke Of Tuscany (8) Yash 60, 2. Mandarino (6) Arvind K 58.5, 3. Knotty Charmer (3) Antony 55.5, 4. Zuccaro (5) G. Vivek 55.5, 5. Siege Courageous (1) Trevor 54.5, 6. Crown Drive (4) Sandesh 52.5, 7. Galahad (2) Akshay K 52.5 and 8. Kings Gambit (7) A. Prakash 52.5.
1. ZUCCARO, 2. SIEGE COURAGEOUS, 3. KING'S GAMBIT

7 COMMONWEALTH DAY PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 6-y-o & over, 5.00: 1. Southern Force (6) Akshay K 61.5, 2. Mystikos (9) Trevor 60.5, 3. Sassy (7) Kiran Rai 60, 4. Ebotse (8) Aleemuddin 59, 5. Super Kind (11) Mukesh K 58, 6. Gandolfini (4) A. Hangal 57.5, 7. Spirit Dancer (3) Rayan 54.5, 8. Breeze Bluster (12) Antony 54, 9. Chisox (10) S. Sachin 54, 10. Star Comet (2) Vishal Bunde 53.5, 11. Peridot (1) Siddaraju P 52 and 12. Rightly Noble (5) Vinod Shinde 51.5.
1. MYSTIKOS, 2. BREEZE BLUSTER, 3. SOUTHERN FORCE

8 PENDRAGON PLATE (Div. I), 1,200m, rated 20 to 45, 5.30: 1. Gloriousness (5) Suraj 60.5, 2. Jade Mountain (1) Trevor 60.5, 3. Out Into Spotlight (3) Antony 58, 4. Zayana (2) Pavan 58, 5. Imperador (6) Vishal Bunde 57.5, 6. Mnemosyne (4) Akshay K 57.5, 7. Scent Of Rain (7) Sandesh 57.5 and 8. Xaily (8) Kiran Rai 54.5.
1. GLORIOUSNESS, 2. JADE MOUNTAIN, 3. MNEMOSYNE
Day's best: **STUD POKER**
Double: **GLORIOUS STRIDES - GLORIOUSNESS**
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

Margaretta wins the feature event

BENGALURU: Mr. Mehernosh H. Deboo-owned Margaretta (G. Vivek up) won the Col. Desraj Urs Trophy (1,600m), the main event of the races held on Saturday (May 23). The winner is trained by P. Shroff.

1. ROYAL TERN PLATE (1,200M): BRIGHT THUNDER (Akshay K) 1, Osaka (Suraj) 2, On The Rise (Pavan) 3 and Spark Of Life (Trevor) 4. 3/4, 6-1/4 and 2. 1m 14.69s. ₹33 (w), 14 and 10 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 28, FP: 48, Q: 21, Trinella: 130/108, Exacta: 271/119. Favourite: Osaka. Owners: Manjri Horse Breeders' Farm Pvt Ltd, Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey & Mr. Rajan Aggarwal. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

2. MOONLIGHT ROMANCE PLATE (DIV. II), 1,400M: FEMME FATALE (P. Mani) 1, Blue Saint (B.L. Paswan) 2, LG's Script (Vaibhav) 3 and Shock And Awe (Darshan) 4. 5-1/4, Hd and Snk. 1m 29.17s. ₹658 (w), 73, 60 and 11 (p), SHP: 245, THP: 50, FP: 8,719, Q: 5,386, Trinella: 17,657/7,567, Exacta: 66,518 (carried over). Favourite: LG's Script. Owner: Mr. S.T. Kalappa. Trainer: Mr. Rajendra Singh.

3. SUPERVITE PLATE (DIV. II), 1,400M: QUEENDOM (Akshay K) 1, Lena (Trevor) 2, Blue Storm (Pavan) 3 and Divo (Jagadeesh) 4. Nk, 1-1/2 and 6-3/4. 1m 27.33s. ₹27 (w), 11, 10 and 15 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 30, FP: 58, Q: 21, Trinella: 158/88, Exacta: 1,825/1,825. Favourite: Lena. Owners: Manjri Horse Breeders' Farm Pvt Ltd & Mr. D.R. Thacker. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

4. K.N. GURUSWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400M): ALFONSINE (Trevor) 1, Sassy Sarah (Mukesh K) 2, Moon Star (Suraj) 3 and Thrill Of Brazil (Jagadeesh) 4. 5-1/2, 7 and 3. 1m 25.33s. ₹16 (w), 10, 39 and 15 (p), SHP: 124, THP: 32, FP: 286, Q: 178, Trinella: 754/225, Exacta: 7,509/5,632. Favourite: Alfonsine. Owner: Mr. P. Arun Kumar. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

5. COL. DESRAJ URS TROPHY (1,600M): MARGARETTA (G. Vivek) 1, Ice Of Fire (Ashhad Asbar) 2, Prokofiev (Trevor) 3 and Inspire (Antony) 4. 4-1/4, 1 and 3. 1m 38.47s. ₹37 (w), 11, 11 and 10 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 43, FP: 153, Q: 79, Trinella: 145/55, Exacta: 434/322. Favourite: Prokofiev. Owner: Mr. Mehernosh H. Deboo. Trainer: P. Shroff.

6. MOONLIGHT ROMANCE PLATE (DIV. I), 1,400M: RAZZMATAZZ (Aditya W) 1, CR Seven (M. Rajesh K) 2, Versace (Indrajeet K) 3 and Dr. Colchester (Jagadeesh) 4. 1, 3 and 4-1/4. 1m 28.55s. ₹28 (w), 10, 10 and 14 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 38, FP: 180, Q: 69, Trinella: 425/131, Exacta: 1,267/671. Favourite: CR Seven. Owner: Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

7. SUPERVITE PLATE (DIV. I), 1,400M: MISTER BROWN (Arvind K) 1, Flight Of Fancy (Aditya W) 2, Supreme Success (Suraj) 3 and Stravinsky (M. Rajesh K) 4. Nk, 4-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m 27.71s. ₹27 (w), 12, 16 and 14 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 41, FP: 105, Q: 40, Trinella: 249/129, Exacta: 2,934/1,706. Favourite: Flight Of Fancy.

Owner: Mr. Santhosh G. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

Jackpot: ₹6,425, Runner-up: 174, Mini Jackpot: 2,244. Treble (i): 5,029, (ii): 1,282.

LIVE TELECAST

Archery World Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 11.30 a.m. & 4.30 p.m.
Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards
IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 8.30 p.m.
Formula One: Canadian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

RATIONALE

'Team combination the reason for using Rohit as Impact Player'

PTI

For me and the medical team, everything is 100%. We are not putting him on the field like what we did in the past as well. It is just about the team combination and the players we want on the field. It has nothing to do with it (injury) — MI head coach Mahela Jayawardene on why Rohit Sharma is used as an Impact Player.

UP AND DOWN

'We would win a game but repeat the same mistakes and lose again'

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Head coach Mahela Jayawardene rued MI's lack of consistency in the 19th edition of the IPL. "At different stages of the competition, we sat down and discussed what we needed to do. We would win a game but repeat the same mistakes and lose again," he said on the eve of the team's final league game against RR.

MAKING IT COUNT

Venkatesh has taken the chances that have come his way: Flower

NAGARA GOPAL

Venkatesh Iyer has been a handy middle-order reinforcement but has been malleable to any demands made of him, feels RCB head coach Andy Flower. "Every time he's had a chance, either as an impact player or in the last two matches, he's taken all of those chances. He's been exemplary," said Flower.

SPIRITED BATTLE

Russell resists Antonelli in Canadian GP F1 sprint race

AFP

George Russell delivered a lights-to-flag drive to win Saturday's sprint race at the Canadian Grand Prix and trim his angry teammate Kimi Antonelli's championship lead. Russell came home 1.272s clear of Lando Norris of McLaren after resisting a spirited attack by Antonelli, who finished third, in the early part of the 23-lap race.

Shreyas keeps PBKS alive, puts the ball in RR's court

Kings skipper aces the chase with his maiden IPL century; he puts on a game-changing 140-run partnership with Prabhsimran; Chahal and Jansen take two wickets each for the winning side

IPL-19

Nigamanth P.
LUCKNOW

After six consecutive gut-wrenching losses, Punjab Kings put on a dominant show with a seven-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants at the Ekana Stadium here on Saturday.

Kings, powered by an unbeaten century from captain Shreyas Iyer, kept their hopes alive in the thrilling playoff race. A Rajasthan Royals loss to Mumbai Indians on Sunday could guarantee PBKS a knockout spot for the second consecutive season.

Chasing a challenging 197, the Punjab side made a disastrous start. Mohammed Shami, who returned to the team, struck off his very first ball to dismiss Priyansh Arya. He then bowled Cooper Connolly with a peach of a delivery.

The visitors, however, recovered through the Shreyas-Prabhsimran Singh alliance, and both batters went for their shots whenever opportunities arose. The opener, having been dropped once, made the Super Giants pay as he drilled the ball through the gaps and raced to his fifty off 28 balls.

The wicketkeeper-batter put on a game-changing 140-run third-wicket stand with his skipper before he was trapped in front by left-arm seamer Arjun Tendulkar.

At the other end, Shreyas completed his century off the last ball of the chase to ensure his side got past the finish line with ease. The Punjab leader, who was dismissed cheaply in his previous innings, regained his mojo. Once he on-drove Shami to the fence early in his knock, everything clicked into gear. He played some delectable shots on either of the wicket en route his maiden IPL hundred.

Earlier, Shreyas elected to bowl against a Mitchell Marsh-less LSG.

But Marsh's absence hardly mattered for Josh Inglis. He began with a flurry of boundaries off Arshdeep Singh, but Arshin Kulkarni's golden duck and Nicholas Pooran's brief stay in the middle stalled LSG's momentum.

Ayush Badoni revived the innings with a blistering 43 off 18 balls before being brilliantly stumped by Prabhsimran off leggie Yuzvendra Chahal.

Inglis and skipper Rishabh Pant combined for a 65-run stand, the former bringing up his half-century by smashing 17 of the 19 runs in Arshdeep's 12th over. With Arshdeep being expensive, Shreyas turned to part-timer Shashank Singh. Boundaries dried up after the medium-pacer sent back Inglis, but Abdul Samad's assault propelled LSG to 196 for six. That proved insufficient once Shreyas got into the zone.

Air Shreyas! The captain stepped up when Kings needed him the most. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Ideal foil: Prabhsimran complemented Shreyas with a fluent knock. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Royal Challengers (Q)	14	9	5	0	18	0.783
Gujarat Titans (Q)	14	9	5	0	18	0.695
Sunrisers Hyderabad (Q)	14	9	5	0	18	0.524
Punjab Kings	14	7	6	1	15	0.309
Rajasthan Royals	13	7	6	0	14	0.083
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	6	1	13	0.011
Chennai Super Kings (E)	14	6	8	0	12	-0.345
Delhi Capitals (E)	13	6	7	0	12	-0.871
Mumbai Indians (E)	13	4	9	0	8	-0.510
Lucknow Super Giants (E)	14	4	10	0	8	-0.740

Q: Qualified | **E:** Eliminated

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
Josh Inglis c Shreyas b Shashank 72 *(44b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Arshin Kulkarni c Prabhsimran b Omarzai 0 *(1b)*, Nicholas Pooran b Jansen 2 *(7b)*, Ayush Badoni st. Prabhsimran b Chahal 43 *(18b, 5x4, 3x6)*, Rishabh Pant c Jansen b Chahal 26 *(22b, 3x4)*, Abdul Samad (not out) 37 (20b, 3x4, 3x6), Mukul Choudhary c sub (Praveen) b Jansen 1 *(3b)*, Arjun Tendulkar (not out) 5 *(5b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-8): 10; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 196.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-16 (Arshin, 1.1 overs), 2-20 (Pooran, 2.5), 3-69 (Badoni, 6.4), 4-134 (Pant, 13.5), 5-169 (Inglis, 16.6), 6-172 (Mukul, 17.5).

KINGS BOWLING
Arshdeep 3-0-52-0, Omarzai 3-0-29-1, Jansen 4-0-33-2, Chahal 4-0-25-2, Vyshak 3-0-26-0, Shashank 3-0-29-1.

PUNJAB KINGS
Priyansh Arya c Tendulkar b Shami 0 *(1b)*, Prabhsimran Singh lbw b Tendulkar 69 *(39b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Cooper Connolly b Shami 18 *(10b, 4x4)*, Shreyas Iyer (not out) 101 *(51b, 11x4, 5x6)*, Suryansh Shedge (not out) 9 *(7b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-3): 3; Total (for three wkts. in 18 overs): 200.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Priyansh, 0.1), 2-22 (Connolly, 2.2), 3-162 (Prabhsimran, 14.6).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING
Shami 4-0-45-2, Prince 3-0-32-0, Mohsin 4-0-48-0, Digvesh **(Impact Player for Inglis)** 3-0-39-0, Tendulkar 4-0-36-1.

Toss: Punjab Kings.

Player-of-the-Match: Shreyas.

PBKS won by seven wickets with two overs to spare.

RR's fate is in its hands but will MI play spoilsport?

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Even before the final round of league-stage matches began, Sunday afternoon's fixture at the Wankhede Stadium had already emerged as the most consequential contest of the Indian Premier League's (IPL) business end.

Of the five teams that were still in contention for the lone remaining playoffs spot, Rajasthan Royals is the only side with its fate firmly in its own hands.

Adding to the intrigue is the maiden appearance of teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi at the Wankhede – that too in front of nearly 19,000 schoolchildren attending as part of Mumbai Indians owners' Education and Sports For All initiative.

For perhaps the first time at the venue, the Royals could find themselves enjoying overwhelming crowd support.

The equation for Rajasthan Royals is straightforward: win and qualify. But the challenge is anything but simple.

The Royals management will anxiously monitor the fitness of captain Riyan Parag and veteran allrounder Ravindra Jadeja. Yet, even in their absence, stand-in skipper Yashasvi Jaiswal marshalled the side impressively before Sooryavanshi's explosive innings against Lucknow Super Giants earlier this week kept RR's campaign alive.

Jaiswal. PTI

Rajasthan will once again bank on the youthful duo of Sooryavanshi and Jaiswal – returning to his alma mater – while hoping Jofra Archer continues his fine rhythm with the ball.

But facing Mumbai Indians with nothing to lose can often be a dangerous proposition. After an underwhelming season, the home side will be desperate to sign off on a winning note. It will be interesting to see if Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya – the duo that has had a lacklustre season – end it on a high.

Will Mumbai Indians play disruptor-in-chief? Or will Rajasthan Royals seal the playoffs berth and render the final league game in Kolkata irrelevant?

Today's matches

Mumbai, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 31
MI 16 | RR 15
PREVIOUS MEETING
RR won by 27 runs, 2026

Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 35
KKR 20 | DC 15
PREVIOUS MEETING
KKR won by eight wickets, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

KKR will hope for a RR slip-up and a win over DC

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders will look to continue its late resurgence when it hosts Delhi Capitals in the final league fixture of IPL 2026 at Eden Gardens on Sunday.

Although Knight Riders remain alive mathematically in the race for the final playoff spot, qualification is no longer in their hands. KKR, having earned 13 points from as many matches, must win big against the eliminated DC (12 points) if Rajasthan Royals goes down to Mumbai Indians in the afternoon clash.

While there is uncertainty, the Kolkata franchise enters the contest with renewed confidence courtesy a remarkable turnaround in form. The three-time champion has won six of its last seven games after struggling in the first half of the campaign.

Tested heavily

The revival has ignited hopes of an unlikely playoff push and restored momentum at a crucial stage of the tournament. However, injuries have continued to test the squad's depth, particularly in the bowling department.

The cog: Rinku, left, has been central to Rahane and KKR's plans this season. R.V. MOORTHY

KKR, having earned 13 points from as many matches, must win against the eliminated DC if RR goes down to MI

Even so, KKR has managed to overcome the setbacks commendably, thanks largely to the strong performances of Sunil Narine, Varun Chakaravarthy and Saurabh Dubey, who have stepped up impressively with the ball.

Adding to the concerns is the absence of its leading run-scorer Angkrish Raghuvanshi, the wicketkeeper-batter who has been ruled out due to concussion and fracture on his left-hand finger. His unavailability leaves a significant gap in the batting order ahead of a must-win encounter.

As for the Axar Patel-led DC, it will hope to end a tough season on a positive note. The away side is expected to have its work cut out as the host will be eager to sign off with a statement performance in front of a passionate Eden crowd.

Bumrah had a niggle in the early stages: Jayawardene

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene revealed that premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah had carried a niggle from the T20 World Cup into the initial phase of IPL 2026.

Shedding light on Bumrah's low returns in the first half of the season, Jayawardene revealed that the fast bowler had been managing a lingering issue from the T20 World Cup.

"Bumrah had a niggle which he played with through the World Cup. We gave him adequate rest before the IPL, but the first four-five games were about gradually building him up. You could see that the pace had dropped a little".

Kimi is exactly the driver F1 needs at the moment: Alesi

Antonelli. REUTERS

S. Dipak Ragav

Former Formula One driver Jean Alesi hailed Kimi Antonelli as the driver the sport needs at the moment. Four races into the 2026 season, the 19-year-old Mercedes driver, in his sophomore campaign, has won the last three races and is leading the charts.

"Kimi is exactly the driver F1 needs at the moment. There is a new wave of fans, with the young guys and girls interested in what is happening in our sport. Kimi is fresh and he's happy," said Alesi ahead of this weekend's Canadian Grand Prix.

Alesi, of Italian descent, felt that Kimi can deal with the pressure from back home in Italy as he battles for the title.

"Italy had the habit of talking about F1 only through Ferrari. Now they have a superstar Italian driver who is not driving for Ferrari. Kimi is in very good hands as Toto Wolff is the Mercedes boss," said the 61-year-old Frenchman.

Alesi, a former Ferrari driver, urged Charles Leclerc to be patient with the team despite not having a car capable of fighting for the crown since 2019.

(Watch F1 live on FanCode).

INBRIEF

Fiorentina, Atalanta end campaign with a draw

Fiorentina drew with Atalanta 1-1 and the clubs rounded out disappointing Serie A campaigns on Friday. Atalanta will finish seventh, which means a place in the Conference League.

The result: Fiorentina 1 (Piccoli 39, *in pic.*) drew with Atalanta 1 (Comuzzo 82-og).

Yuki-Michael falter in the title clash in Geneva

India's Yuki Bhambri and Michael Venus of New Zealand lost 6-3, 6-7(7), [7-10] to Romain Arneodo of Monaco and Australia's Marc Polmans in the final of the ATP Geneva Open (250) on Saturday.

Aryaveer leads Indians' march into finals in Asian jr. squash

Aryaveer Dewan led India's fine show, reaching the boys' under-19 final at the 33rd Asian Junior Individual Squash Championships in Panzhihua, China, on Saturday. Joining him in the title clashes of their respective categories are Shiven Agarwal (boys' U-17), Anika Dubey (girls' U-17) and Amarya Bajaj (boys' U-13).

Suraj and Sagar clinch silver; Greco-Roman wrestlers shine

Suraj Singh (60kg) and Sagar Singh (67kg) won silver as Indians shone in Greco-Roman section of under-23 Asian Wrestling at Da Nang (Vietnam) by securing five medals on Saturday. Sachin Kumar (77kg), Rohit (97kg), Hardeep (130kg) won bronze.

Sinner sets sights on career Grand Slam

With Alcaraz ruled out and Djokovic showing indifferent form, this will be the Italian's best chance to achieve the milestone; the Serbian will be bidding for a record 25th Grand Slam

FRENCH OPEN

Reuters
PARIS

With defending champion Carlos Alcaraz out injured and Novak Djokovic undercooked on clay, the big question heading into the French Open is can anyone stop Jannik Sinner from securing the career Grand Slam in Paris?

Sinner's season began to build momentum through a "Sunshine Double" of titles at Indian Wells and Miami before the Italian took complete control of the European clay swing with triumphs in Monte Carlo, Madrid and Rome.

The 24-year-old Italian has a golden opportunity to capture the only major title missing from his collection 12 months after a heartbreaking loss to Alcaraz in the final.

Central to Sinner's rise has been his growing authority on the sport's slowest surface.

Victory at Roland Garros would bring Sinner a fifth major and complete the set a few months after Alcaraz did so at the Australian Open. With Alcaraz skipping his Paris title defence due to a wrist injury, Djokovic looms as one of the few with the game to test Sinner.

All on the line: Sinner would face his toughest challenge from Djokovic, although other contenders like Zverev can't be taken lightly. AP PHOTO/EMMA DA SILVA

The Serb will resume his hunt for a record 25th Grand Slam title having shown in Melbourne that he remains a force even in his late thirties, after dismantling Sinner in a five-set semifinal. Yet that display of endurance and mental strength comes with a note of caution.

The physical toll from a two-decade career has left him short of full fitness and his only clay-court outing this season ended in defeat by Dino Prizmic in Rome.

Former U.S. Open champion Andy Roddick said Djokovic will still be a threat despite limited clay-court preparation.

"He's like a part-time tennis player who's still number four in the world all the time when he shows up," Roddick said.

Among the other hopefuls, Alexander Zverev remains a contender as he eyes an elusive first major title but the German goes to Paris with question marks over his fitness due to a back issue.

Proven pedigree

Twice runner-up Casper Ruud also brings proven pedigree on the sport's slowest surface but has struggled to take his game to the top, as shown in his loss to Sinner in the Rome final.

Frenchman Arthur Fils is also a danger after capturing the Barcelona title while Ben Shelton will carry U.S. hopes after showing his growing comfort on clay by winning the Munich crown.

Sunday's Picks

MEN	
2-Zverev vs Bonzi	
3-Djokovic vs Perricard	
7-Fritz vs Basavareddy	
13-Khachanov vs Gea	
28-Fonseca vs Pavlovic	
WOMEN	
8-Andreeva vs Ferro	
11-Bencic vs Kraus	
15-Kostyuk vs Selekhmeteva	
21-Tauson vs Snigur	
Raducanu vs Sierra	

Delhi HC allows Vinesh to participate in trials

WRESTLING

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has allowed wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in the selection trials for the 2026 Asian Games, scheduled on May 30 and 31, while criticising the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for acting in a "vindictive" manner against her.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia directed that the trials be video-recorded and ordered the nomination of two independent observers from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to oversee the process.

The bench, in the order passed on May 22 and made online on May 23, observed that motherhood is "celebrated" in India and across the world, adding that any legal or regulatory framework that disadvantages a woman on account of pregnancy or post-partum recovery would violate the constitutional guarantee of equality and non-discrimination under Articles 14 and 21.

Vinesh has challenged WFI's circular prescribing eligibility criteria for participation in the Asian Games selection trials. Under the revised policy, only wrestlers who secured medals in competitions held in 2025 or 2026 are eligible to participate.

She contended that the criteria effectively excluded her as she had been

Vinesh. FILE PHOTO

away from competition since December 2024, including on account of maternity after giving birth in July 2025.

She also challenged a showcause notice issued by the WFI on May 9 which referred to her disqualification from the women's 50 kg final at the 2024 Paris Olympics as a "national embarrassment".

The Bench noted that Vinesh's exclusion from the trials was directly linked to the sabbatical and temporary retirement she took during maternity and recovery, which prevented her from participating in qualifying championships under the existing policy and circular.

The Court also deprecated the WFI's description of Ms Phogat's disqualification at the 2024 Paris Olympics as a "national embarrassment" in its show-cause notice, despite the Court of Arbitration for Sport having found no wrongdoing on her part. The court said the remarks appeared "premeditated", "misconceived" and reflective of a mala fide and vindictive intent against the wrestler.

Gurindervir, Vishal set the track ablaze with National records

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
RANCHI

Gurindervir Singh and Vishal T.K. smashed the men's 100m and 400m National records respectively to set the track ablaze in the Federation athletics meet at the Birsa Munda Stadium (Morabadi) here on Saturday.

Tejaswin Shankar added more thrill to the historic evening by finishing his decathlon routine on a high and becoming the first Indian to score 8000-plus points while resetting the National record.

Gurindervir, who posted 10.17 while Animesh Kujur rewrote the National record with 10.15 in the semifinals a day ago, renewed the rivalry with a strong start and putting his rivals under pressure.

He thus became the first Indian to log a sub-10.10 time over the distance. Second-placed Kujur clocked 10.20.

Flashing a sheet of paper with 'Time is 10.10. Not finished yet' written on it, Gurindervir, who also qualified for the Commonwealth Games, said, "People say a lot on social media. This is for myself."

In the 400m semifinals, Vishal (45.27) along with Rajesh Ramesh (45.40) and Jay Kumar (45.47) had gone below Arokia Rajiv's 10-year-old meet record (45.47).

A day later, the lanky runner gave a confident performance to become the first Indian to record a sub-45 time (44.98) ahead of second-positioned Rajesh Ramesh (45.31). However, he missed the CWG qualifying mark (44.96) narrowly.

"Before the race I fixed my mind. I knew I could run 44, but didn't tell anyone," said Vishal.

Thunderous run: Gurindervir, centre, has become the first Indian to log a sub-10.10 time in 100m. RITU RAJ KONWAR

I am just too good! Vishal celebrates after winning the 400m in 44.98s. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Tejaswin. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Tejaswin's 8057 was good enough to earn him a CWG ticket.

The results (finals): Men:
100m (CWG Q mark 10.16): 1. Gurindervir Singh (Rel) 10.09 (NR, Old 10.15, Animesh Kujur, 2026), 2. Kujur (Odi) 10.20, 3. Pranav Gurav (Rel) 10.29.
400m (CWG Q mark 44.96): 1. Vishal T.K. (TN) 44.98 (NR, Old 45.12, Vishal, 2025), 2. Rajesh Ramesh (TN) 45.31, 3. Jay Kumar (UP) 45.47.
1500m (CWG Q mark 3:30.82): 1. Sakir (Har) 3:45.01, 2. Ajay Kumar Saroj (UP) 3:45.96, 3. Sunil Dawar (MP) 3:46.42.
Decathlon (CWG Q mark 7787): 1. Tejaswin Shankar (Rel) 8057 (NR, Old 7947, Tejaswin, 2026), 2. Thowfeeq N. (NCOE Trivandrum) 7503, 3. Gokul K.R. (Navy) 7157.
Women: 100m (CWG Q mark 11.17): 1. Sudeshna Shivankar (Mah) 11.56s, 2. Giridharani Ravikumar (TN) 11.58, 3. Tamanna (Har) 11.62.
400m (CWG Q mark 51.36): 1. R. Vithya Ramraj (TN) 52.22, 2. Ansa Babu (AIP) 53.07, 3. Prachi (JSW) 53.26.
1500m (CWG Q mark 4:05.09): 1. Pooja (JSW) 4:11.34, 2. Ankita (Utk) 4:12.28, 3. Anju (Har) 4:21.26.
Triple jump (CWG Q mark 14.25m): 1. Niharika Vashisht (Pun) 13.64m (MR, Old 13.57m, Anisha K. Vijayan, 2006), 2. Bhairabi Roy (Rly) 13.28m, 3. Mallala Anusha (AP) 13.28m.
Shot put (CWG Q mark 17.62m): 1. Krishna Jayasankar (Rel) 17.35m, 2. Yogita (Har) 16.82m, 3. Shiksha (Rel) 16.61m.
Pole vault (CWG Q mark 4.45m): 1. Baranica Elangovan (TN) 4.10m (MR, Old 4.06m, Krishna Rachan, 2019), 2. Nitika Akare (MP) 4.10m, 3. Krishna Rachan (Rly) 3.90m.
Javelin (CWG Q mark 59.79m): 1. Shilpa Rani (Har) 56.46m, 2. Annu Rani (UP) 55.91m, 3. Rashmi K. (AP) 54.85m.

All fine: Neeraj doesn't have any back issues, says Nair. FILE PHOTO

Neeraj will be picked if he does well: chief National coach

Y.B. Sarangi
RANCHI

Olympics and World championships medallist, javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, may make it to the Glasgow Commonwealth Games-bound Indian team if he performs well in June, said chief National coach Radhakrishnan Nair.

According to him, Neeraj – who is set to train in Bienne (Switzerland) from Monday following his rehab for a back injury in Turkiye – is expected to begin his season in June.

"Neeraj doesn't have any back issues. He'll be competing (in June). If he does well, we will definitely select him... provided he performs better than the athletes participating here," said Nair during the Federation athletics meet, which is the last qualifying event for the CWG, at the Birsa Munda Stadium (Morabadi) here.

Asked whether Neeraj, who skipped 2022 CWG, would be able to compete in both the CWG and the Asian Games, Nair said: "Let's see how he performs in June."

Nair was confident about 5,000m and 10,000m National record holder Gulveer Singh's chances of selection as the lone Indian in a world class CWG field.

"Gulveer has already performed. He did much better than anybody who performed in India."

On steeplechaser Parul Chaudhary, he said, "Parul recently clocked 9:12.84, a mark close to her National record (in the Diamond League in China this month). That's the second best time ever by an Indian (woman).

"The selection committee can decide about her CWG participation."

Sable not fit

It's learnt that CWG silver medallist steeplechaser Avinash Sable, who is in rehab following recurrence of an injury, was keen to return by July for Glasgow but did not get the go-ahead.

"Sable is not fit right now. But, he's confident that he'll be fit for the Asian Games. We've hopes from jumps – triple jump, long jump. Men's javelin is our pet event, we can have even three participants. We've better chances in the Asian Games".

Dos Santos outguns Warholm

DIAMOND LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
XIAMEN (CHINA)

Alison dos Santos again outgunned Karsten Warholm, while Shericka Jackson and Masai Russell shone at the Diamond League meeting here on Saturday.

Brazilian Dos Santos timed 46.72 seconds for victory over 400m hurdles. Warholm came in second, at 0.10sec.

Jamaica's Jackson stole the show in the women's 200m with an electric 21.87sec, a meet record.

The men's 100m was claimed by Kenya's Ferdinand Omanyala in 9.94sec.

American Russell clocked 12.14sec for victory in the 100m hurdles, an Americas and Diamond League record.

Arguably the standout performance of the meet in the field was by home favourite Yan Ziyi, who smashed her own under-20 world record by winning the women's javelin with a massive 71.74m.

There was another meet record in the women's 3,000m steeplechase, won by Uganda's 2021 Olympic champion Peruth Chemutai in a world lead of 8:51.06.

Biryukov clinches maiden Challenger singles title

Having a ball: Biryukov, despite a mid-match wobble in the final, had a tournament to remember while Sasikumar and Adil brought cheer to the home fans. K. MURALI KUMAR

TENNIS

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Petr Bar Biryukov overcame jitters to eclipse Ilya Ivashka 7-6(0), 4-6, 6-4 in the singles final of the S.M. Krishna Memorial Open ATP Challenger at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Saturday.

Mukund Sasikumar and Adil Kalyanpur kept the home spirits high in doubles, bagging the crown with a 6-7(3), 6-4, [10-3] win over Biryukov and Grigoriy Lomakin in the summit clash.

In singles, Biryukov, a compulsive shot maker, seemed to suffer the yips when he was 2-1 up in the second set. The Russian did not make the effort to chase down balls, attempted shots between his legs, and hammered his forehands long. The sudden loss of interest allowed Ivashka to draw level in the match.

In the decider, though, southpaw Biryukov came back with the right mindset, and used his big serve to great effect. Ivashka, a former World No. 40, stayed afloat, until a couple of unforced errors cost him dear.

At 4-5 and 30-30, Ivashka missed an easy volley to hand Biryukov a match point. Ivashka then hit his next shot into the net. A delighted Biryukov, who won his maiden Challenger singles title, celebrated by throwing his racquet high in the air. He received $9,500 and 50 ATP ranking points.

In doubles, Sasikumar and Adil held their nerve in a tight encounter. Sasikumar's wide serves proved to be a handful, while Adil showed good hands at the net. They took home $2,980 and 50 ranking points.

The results: Finals: Singles: Petr Bar Biryukov bt Ilya Ivashka 7-6(0), 4-6, 6-4.
Doubles: Adil Kalyanpur & Mukund Sasikumar bt Biryukov & Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) 6-7(3), 6-4, [10-3].